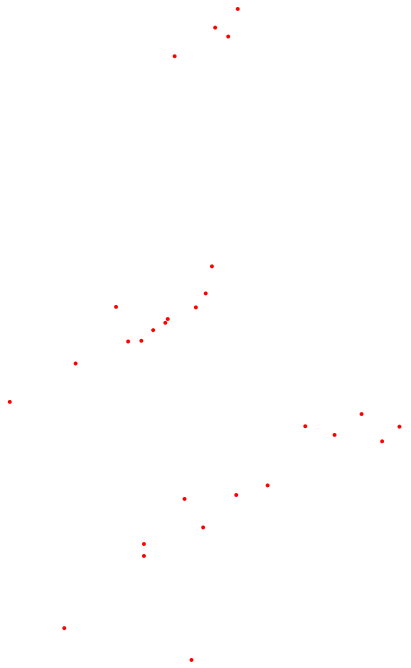


Daily Current Affairs





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A close-up photograph of a tree trunk, showing the rough texture of the bark. A bright light source, likely the sun, is positioned at the top center, creating a strong lens flare that radiates across the upper portion of the image. The light filters through the leaves, creating a dappled pattern of light and shadow on the bark. The overall tone is warm and inspirational.

Every day is a new
beginning. Take a deep
breath, smile, and start
again.

Air India jet crashed after fuel cut-off: report

AAIB report says fuel switches shifted to 'cut-off' three seconds after aircraft became airborne

One pilot asked the other why did he cut off fuel. The other pilot responded that he did not do so

AAIB report does not recommend any actions for either Boeing 787-8 aircraft or GE GENx-1B engine

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The fuel control switches of the Air India flight that crashed in Ahmedabad last month shifted or "transitioned" to the cut-off position three seconds after the aircraft became airborne, says the preliminary investigation report on the accident. Later, there was a loss of engine thrust and both engines shut down, precipitating the crash of the Boeing 787-8 aircraft which killed at least 260 people, including 19 on the ground, it said.

The fuel cut-off switches of both the engines "transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec", said the report submitted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau late on Friday night. This switch movement oc-

Rise & fall

Timeline of the AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad on June 12, as per the preliminary report released by the AAIB

1 The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration Issued **Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB)** in 2018, regarding the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature

2 The suggested checks were not carried out by Air India as the SAIB was advisory and not mandatory

180 knots
maximum recorded speed of the aircraft during the crash

1.38.39 p.m. : Aircraft lifts off from Runway 23

1.38.42 p.m. : Fuel cut-off switches for both engines transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF within an interval of 1 second

■ One of the pilots heard asking the other why did he cut off [the fuel supply]. The other pilot responded that he did not do so

1.38.52 p.m. - 1:38:54 p.m. : Both fuel cutoff switches moved back to

their original RUN position

1:39:05 p.m.: Mayday call issued from the cockpit before radio silence. ATC notices aircraft crashing



1.39.11p.m:
Black box stops recording



PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Fuel switches regulate the flow of fuel into an aircraft's engines. They are generally guarded with brackets to prevent accidental movements and there is a procedure in place for its usage, says veteran pilot. The switches have to be first pulled up before changing their position

curred at 1.38.42 p.m., exactly three seconds after the plane achieved lift-off.

Pilot discussion

The report does not mention whether the movement of switches was inadvertent or deliberate.

However, it notes that, at the time the switches "transitioned" from "run" to "cut-off" position, the cockpit voice recording showed that "one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut-off. The other pilot responded that

he did not do so."

The report does not mention whether the first officer or the pilot-in-command posed the question; nor does it include the full transcript of the conversation between the pilots captured in the cockpit

voice recording.

"Until the investigation explains how a supposedly locked fuel switch could have moved to CUTOFF and provides a detailed sequence of failure messages and aircraft response, the full truth remains elusive,"

says Amit Singh, an aviation safety expert and founder of the Safety Matters NGO. Thirty seconds later, one of the pilots transmitted "MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY" – the distress signal used to indicate a life-threatening emergency. The air traffic control officer enquired about the call sign to identify the flight, but did not get any response. Seconds later, however, he observed the aircraft crashing outside the airport boundary at 13.39 p.m.

U.S. advisory

U.S. aviation regulator Federal Aviation Administration had issued an advisory on December 17, 2018, regarding the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature for the Boeing 787-8. However, the report says that Air India did not carry out the suggested inspec-

tions as the FAA bulletin was only an advisory and did not mandate action.

Having scrutinised the maintenance records, the AAIB found that no defects in the fuel control switch of this aircraft had been reported after 2023, when the throttle control module of the cockpit control panel was last replaced on this aircraft.

Subsequently, after a gap of 10 to 12 seconds, the switches moved back to their original "run" position at 1.38.52 and 1.38.54 seconds. After the fuel supply was switched back on, one of the engines progressed to recovery and stopped decelerating, but deceleration on the second engine was not arrested. The black box stopped recording data 17 seconds later at 1.39.11 p.m.

MORE REPORTS ON

» PAGE 4

PILOTS' LAST CHAT: 'DIDN'T CUT OFF FUEL'

June 12, 11:17am | Aircraft from Delhi lands in Ahmedabad as AI 423

1:18:38pm | Aircraft pushes back from Ahmedabad to take off for London as AI 171

1:26:08pm | Aircraft begins taxiing

1:37:37pm | Starts take off roll

1:38:39pm | Aircraft lifts off

1:38:42pm | Max speed achieved. Fuel switches transition from 'run' to 'cutoff'

1:38:47pm | Both engines' core parameters fall below minimum idle speed. RAT begins hydraulic power supply

1:38:52pm | Engine 1 fuel cut off, switch goes back to run

1:38:56pm | Engine 2 fuel cut off, switch goes back to run

1:39:05pm | Pilots issue MAYDAY call. ATC replies, gets no response from them as plane crashes

1:39:11pm | Flight data stops recording at this point

All times in IST | Source: AAIB prelim report



Wreckage of the Air India plane that crashed on June 12 at Ahmedabad airport seconds after takeoff. (Below) Fuel control switch on a Boeing-787 aircraft (not of the flight that crashed)



Downloaded flight data contained around 49 hrs of data for 6 flights, including AI 171. Recovered audio was 2 hrs long and captured the event. Report finds **weather conditions unremarkable, no significant bird activity.** Flight take-off weight within limits & fuel samples 'satisfactory'

“ In cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut off (fuel to engine). The other pilot responded that he did not do so

—Preliminary AAIB report

1. Fuel Switch Malfunction:

- At 1:38:42 p.m., three seconds after take-off, the **fuel cutoff switches** of both engines **moved from RUN to CUT-OFF**.
- This caused both engines to **shut down**.
- At 1:38:52 and 1:38:54, the switches were **moved back to RUN**.

2. Pilot Confusion:

- Cockpit voice recording reveals one pilot **asked the other** why he cut off fuel.
- The other **denied** doing so.
- **No conclusion** on whether it was **inadvertent or deliberate**.

3. No Maintenance Defect Found:

- AAIB found **no defect** in the **fuel control switch** or cockpit module after 2023.
- **Last replacement** was post-2023.

4. Safety Advisory Ignored:

- **FAA** had issued a **Safety Bulletin (SAIB)** in 2018 warning about possible disengagement of fuel switch locking mechanism.
- **India did not implement** the checks as **SAIB was only advisory**, not mandatory.

Report points to human intervention as cause of crash; statements 'vague'

Capt. A. Ranganathan

The preliminary report on the tragic fatal crash of Air India's London flight (flight no. AI 171) soon after taking off from Ahmedabad on June 12 was submitted late on Friday night.

Did the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) release it voluntarily or under intense International pressure? The stories in *Air Current* and the *Wall Street Journal* about fuel switches and the threatened walkout by U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and maybe by the AAIB of the U.K. from the investigation seem to have accelerated the release.

The report has given details, but there are several

issues that are not covered. For the past one month, the electronic media had been full of YouTube narratives painting the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, the type of the aircraft that crashed, with a black brush. But the aircraft is safe, and several other factors could have caused the crash.

When authorities appointed a Director-General of Police in the inquiry committee and threw in a sabotage angle, it harked back to several cases of pilot suicide events. The preliminary report, with several shortcomings, does give an indication in that direction.

Page 14 of the report, which has an image from the CCTV footage of AI 171 taking off and an inset,

shows that the RAM air turbine was deployed. This image was available to the authorities even on the day of the accident. The digital flight data recorded (DFDR) is not required to identify its deployment. Thirty days of misinformation since the accident have increased anxiety among passengers and stress levels of operating crew on Dreamliners worldwide.

Clarity needed

The report contains several vague statements. On Page 13, it is clearly mentioned that the captain was the pilot monitoring and the first officer was the pilot flying. The pilot flying handles the controls during take-off, and both his



A file photo of the wreckage of the crashed Air India aircraft lying on the Ahmedabad airport premises. VIJAY SONEJI

hands will be on the control column during take-off and climb, until autopilot is engaged. The only pilot whose hands are free is the pilot monitoring – in this case, the captain. The report attempts to give an impression that either of

them could have manipulated the fuel switches. Only the captain could have moved the fuel selector to cut-off position and not the first officer.

The report says, "In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard

asking the other why did he cut off the fuel. The other pilot responded that he did not do so!" This is such an amateurish attempt to hide the fact. It is mandatory for all pilots to wear their headphones during take-off or landing. The cockpit voice recorder will record any transmission from the captain's mike as CAM 1 and the copilot's as CAM 2. The investigator can identify, positively, who said what. Here again, a very poor attempt to divert from facts is seen.

Page 11 of the report gives another clear indication of wrong information being mentioned. In Item 7, the details about the captain mentions he is an airline transport pilots licence holder. His licence

number is not mentioned. The date of issue of the licence is May 14, 2021. His flying experience on Boeing 787s is given as 8,596.43 hours and as pilot-in-command on this type of aircraft is 8,260.43 hours.

To fly any large aircraft, the airline transport licence is mandatory. The captain's licence was issued on May 14, 2021, and the crash was on June 12, 2025. By the Civil Aviation Requirements on flight and duty time limitations of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, a pilot can fly a maximum of 1,000 hours a year. The report indicates the captain has flown more than 8,200 hours in four years and 21 days. Can one believe any of the figures

given in the report as authentic? On the day of the crash, the DGCA had given the experience level of the captain as 8,200 hours and the first officer as 1,100 hours. This report gives the captain's total hours as 15,638 hours and the first officer's as 3,403 hours. The report, as in all air accidents over the years, do not conform to International Civil Aviation Organization Annex 13 Standards, and India's aviation sector is thus proving to be an embarrassment to the safety world.

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council, India

1. Report Released Amid Pressure:

- The release of the report possibly influenced by pressure from:
 - **US NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board)**
 - **UK AAIB**
 - **Media coverage** (Air Current, Wall Street Journal)

2. Fuel Switch Manipulation – Captain's Role Highlighted:

- Page 13: **Captain** was the **pilot monitoring**, First Officer was **pilot flying**.
- Only **monitoring pilot's hands are free** during take-off—i.e., the **Captain** could have accessed fuel switches.

3. Voice Recorder Evidence:

- Recording includes a question from one pilot to the other: "Why did you cut off the fuel?"
- Such a **basic question exchange** without follow-up or identification is termed **amateurish** by the expert.

5. Licensing Irregularities:

- The **Captain's licence** was issued on **May 14, 2021**, and he allegedly flew **8,200+ hours** in **years 21 days**.
- This **exceeds the annual cap** (1,000 hours/year) as per **DGCA norms**.
- Possible data inconsistency or violation of **flight duty time limitations**.

6. Violation of ICAO Standards:

- The report fails to conform to **ICAO Annex 13 accident standards**.
- Suggests a **pattern of opacity** in India's civil aviation investigations.

IN BRIEF



Six die as four-storey building collapses in northeast Delhi

Six persons were killed and eight injured when a four-storey building in Wazirpur, northeast Delhi, collapsed on Saturday, a police officer said. The deceased included Madhoo, 80, the building's owner, his wife Balita, 46, and two sons, Javed, 25, and Abdullah, 18. Two more persons, Zubia, 27, and her two-year-old daughter Fozia, also were declared dead. Their bodies have been sent to Gurgaon Trauma Hospital. A senior police officer said the building was over 15 years old, and prima facie, its "poor construction" could be a reason for the collapse. A case has been registered, the officer added.

Shukla to undergo seven-day rehabilitation after return

Astronaut Shashidhar Shukla will undergo a seven-day rehabilitation programme after his splashdown off the California coast on July 18 as he returns to earth from an 18-day mission on the International Space Station (ISS). Mr. Shukla and three other astronauts — commander Peggy Whitson and mission specialists Alexander Misurski-Wisniewski and Tibor Kapu of Poland and Hungary — had docked at the ISS on June 28 as part of the commercial Axion-4 mission. The four astronauts are scheduled to undock from the ISS on Monday, July 14, at 4.35 p.m. IST (7:05 a.m. EDT), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said in a statement.

Assam Rifles seize meth tabs worth ₹12.4 crore in Mizoram

Assam Rifles recovered illegal methamphetamine tablets worth ₹12.401 crore in Churung district of Mizoram on Friday. As per the Assam Rifles, acting on specific intelligence, an area domination patrol team was alerted in Zokhawthar town on Friday evening. They saw two people leaving behind a white rickshaw jumping into the river and escaping across the India-Myanmar border. When the rickshaws were inspected, 33 packets of meth tabs (around 3,33,300 tabs) weighing 37.476 kg, valued at about ₹12.401 crore, were recovered. The recovered items were handed over to the Police Department, in Zokhawthar for investigation.

ED attaches Ramprastha's assets worth ₹681.54 crore

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached immovable properties worth ₹681.54 crore linked to Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited (RUPDL) and its group companies, in a case alleging that homebuyers were cheated. The attached assets include two plotted colonies of Ramprastha City in Gurgaon, as well as land parcels in Basai, Gurgaon, Haryana, and Wazirpur, in Gurgaon. The ED probe is based on cases registered by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing and the Haryana Police, following complaints from homebuyers against RUPDL, and its promoters that they failed to deliver flats and plots within promised timeframes.

SUDOKU

	7	6	2					3
			8	1				
2								6
6			5	2		1		
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	6		1	4	3			8
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3					9	2	4	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
4 7 1 5 9 3 8 6 2
6 8 5 4 2 1 7 3 9
3 9 2 7 6 8 5 4 1
5 4 8 2 1 7 9 6 3
1 6 9 3 4 5 2 8 7
2 3 7 8 4 9 6 1 5
8 2 9 7 6 5 1 3 4
7 1 4 3 8 2 9 5 6
9 5 6 1 7 4 3 2 8

UGC's anti-ragging system has utterly failed: Delhi HC

Court mulls suo motu PIL petition to check surge in ragging episodes and student suicides; UGC's anti-ragging helpline number recorded 1,084 complaints in 2024, the highest in past nine years

Solaim Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

In a strong rebuke to the University Grants Commission's current anti-ragging framework, the Delhi High Court has signalled that it may initiate a suo motu public interest litigation (PIL) petition to address the recent surge in ragging incidents and student suicides across higher educational institutions.

According to the latest 2024 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, students accounted for 7.6% — or 1.44 — of all suicide deaths in India, surpassing even the combined toll among farmers and agricultural labourers.

Last year, the UGC's anti-ragging helpline recorded 1,084 complaints, the highest in the past nine years.

"This system has utterly failed. You have not been able to do anything, except every other day, there is a news report of a student



death," a Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Ge-dela observed on Friday during the hearing on a petition filed by the Amicus Curiae Kachar Prasad (AKSP), a non-governmental organisation.

Questioning the effectiveness of the UGC's anti-ragging system, the court observed, "Spending ₹44 lakh yearly for overseeing the welfare of 35 million students across the country — how do you justify this? You have to open your coffers."

"This issue of ragging appears to be very superficial, but, if you ever met someone who have dropped out on account of ragging, only then you would realise: A person who commits suicide is never able to interact with the court had earlier remarked.

Supreme Court rap

The development comes months after the Supreme Court, in March, expressed concern that the existing UGC regulations on curbing ragging remained largely on paper.

news reports have



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DEHIL HIGH COURT

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Kolhapuri sandal row: Prada to send expert team to Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a bid to move off the backlash against its appropriation of Kolhapuri's artisan chappals, Italian luxury fashion house Prada intends to launch a limited edition of 'Made in India', Kolhapuri-inspired leather sandals, in partnership with local artisans, according to the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MCCIA).

After its first meeting with Prada representatives via video conferencing on Friday, MCCIA said the fashion major also intends to send a technical team to Mumbai to work closely with traditional communities.

"The capsule collection will comply with Geographical Indication tag re-

quirements," a MCCIA representative said.

"The mission focused on cultural recognition, ethical sourcing, and collaboration with Kolhapuri's artisan community — particularly the Kolhapuri chappal industry, which inspired elements of Prada's spring/summer 2025 men's collection," a MCCIA press statement said.

MCCIA presented six agenda points rooted in cultural respect. Prada assured alignment on all key issues and expressed clear interest in long-term engagement with artisan stakeholders," it added.

"This partnership can become a model for global brands to work respectfully with traditional communities," MCCIA president Lalit Gandhi said.

8-year-old Namibian cheetah dies of injuries at Kuno National Park

The Hindu Bureau
BHOJAL

An eight-year-old Namibian cheetah died on Saturday in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP), a week after sustaining injuries inside her enclosure, forest officials said.

The female cheetah Nabha had been "badly injured" probably during a hunting attempt inside her soft release home (enclosure), and succumbed to the injuries during treatment, Uttam Kumar Sharma, Field Director, KNP, said.

"She had fractures in both Ulna and Fibula on the left side along with other injuries. She was treated for a week but succumbed to her injuries. Further details will be



Head coast: Kuno now has 26 cheetahs, including 16 males and three female adults translocated from Africa, and 11 cubs.

known after the post-mortem report is received," Mr. Sharma said in a statement.

After Nabha's death, Mr. Sharma said that Kuno now had 26 cheetahs, including 16 males and three female adults translocated from Africa, and 11 Indian-born cubs.

Screening does not stop even after visa is issued: U.S. Embassy

Kallol Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI

The United States visa holders will be deported if they are found to be violating U.S. laws and immigration rules, the U.S. Embassy said on Saturday.

The announcement came days after the U.S. government declared that social media accounts of applicants for F, M and J category — non-immigrant visas should be turned to "public" to allow a check of social media posts by the U.S. authorities.

The tightening of the visa rules is part of the Trump administration's measures to stop illegal immigration.

The U.S. Embassy in India has been cautioning about the tightening visa procedures in the recent months. On June 26, they had warned that people attempting to commit visa frauds would be "held responsible" for their actions.

saying, "If you break U.S. law, you will be punished with significant criminal penalties."

Continuous checking

"U.S. visa screening does not stop after a visa is issued. We continuously check visa holders to ensure they follow all laws and immigration rules — and we will revoke their visas and deport them if they don't," said the U.S. Embassy in a social media post.

A day earlier, the U.S. Embassy had warned that "falsifying or omitting information" related to social media accounts could



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saying, "If you break U.S. law, you will be punished with significant criminal penalties."

Continuous checking

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'Enrolment nearly done in third phase trials for India's first dengue vaccine'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Following an announcement by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec Ltd. to initiate third phase trials, about 8,000 of the targeted 10,000 participants have enrolled in the third phase of clinical trials for a dengue vaccine in India, Manoj Murhekar, Director, National Institute of Epidemiology, ICMR, Chennai, told *The Hindu*.

The trial will be rolled out at 20 centres across the country, Dr. Murhekar said.

"In India, all four serotypes of the dengue virus are known to circulate or co-circulate in many regions, so it's vital to ensure that we have an effective vaccine that achieves good efficacy for all four serotypes," he added.

The trial is primarily funded by ICMR, with partial support from Panacea Biotec. Participants will be followed up for two years under projects spread across various centres, including Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Delhi.



High hopes: The tetravalent dengue vaccine strain has shown promising results in preclinical and clinical trials. FILE PHOTO

There is currently no antiviral treatment or licensed vaccine for dengue in India.

Landmark trial

"This landmark trial will evaluate the efficacy of India's indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine, DengiAll, developed by Panacea Biotec. The first participant in this trial was vaccinated last year at Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak," a release issued by the Union Health Ministry said.

The tetravalent dengue vaccine strain (TV003/

TV005) originally developed by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S., has shown promising results in preclinical and clinical trials worldwide.

Panacea Biotec, one of three Indian companies to receive the strain, is at the most advanced stage of developing a vaccine.

The company has worked extensively on these strains to develop a full-fledged vaccine formulation and holds a process patent for this work. The first and second phases of the clinical trials of Indian vaccine formulations were completed in 2018-19,

yielding promising results.

Dengue is a major public health concern in India, which ranks among the top 30 countries with the highest incidence of the disease. The global incidence of dengue has been steadily increasing over the past two decades, with more than 129 countries reporting dengue viral disease by the end of 2023, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In India, approximately 75-80% of infections are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can still transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes. Among the 20-25% of cases where symptoms are clinically apparent, children are at a significantly higher risk of hospitalisation and mortality. In adults, the disease can escalate into severe conditions, including the dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome.

The dengue virus has four serotypes, 1-4, with low cross-protection against each other, which means people can experience repeated infections.

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and **Panacea Biotec Ltd.** are conducting the **third phase** of clinical trials for **India's first indigenous dengue vaccine**.
 - About **8,000 of the targeted 10,000 participants** have been enrolled so far.
 - The trial is being held at **20 centres** across India: including **Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Delhi**.
-



Scientific Details:

- The vaccine being tested is a **tetravalent vaccine** called **DengiAll**, targeting all four dengue virus serotypes (DEN-1 to DEN-4).
 - Vaccine strain: **TV003/TV005**, originally developed by the **U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH)**.
 - Previous trial phases (Phase I & II): completed in 2018–19, showing **promising results** in pre-clinical and clinical trials.
-

Importance of the Vaccine:

- India has no licensed antiviral or dengue vaccine currently.
 - Four dengue virus serotypes **co-circulate** across India.
 - The vaccine is important to ensure **broad protection** and prevent severe forms like:
 - Dengue hemorrhagic fever
 - Dengue shock syndrome
-

Dengue - Global & Indian Context:

- India ranks among the **top 30 countries** with the highest **dengue incidence**.
- **WHO (2023)**: Over **129 countries** reported dengue outbreaks.
- In India:
 - **75–80%** of infections are **asymptomatic** (but still contagious).
 - **20–25%** have **clinical symptoms**, with **children at higher risk**.
 - **Severe cases** can lead to hospitalization and complications.

- Estimated global infections:
390 million per year
- Clinically detected:
100 million per year
- Global deaths:
Around 25,000 annually

The virus

- Severe flu-like illness that affects infants, young children and adults
- Early detection and access to medical care can lower fatality rates

Mostly transmitted through bites of the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito



Four distinct but related viruses cause dengue



Recovery from one gives lifelong immunity to that particular strain

A second infection by one of the different strains can lead to **dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF)**, which has a 2.5% mortality rate



Dengue in India & World

Year-wise cases in State

EACH YEAR, CLOSE TO **50 MILLION** DENGUE INFECTIONS GET REPORTED GLOBALLY

• Out of these, **70%** of dengue cases are from Asia

• India contributes anywhere between **34% and 40%** of dengue cases in Asia

• A University of Oxford study says that India has maximum number of dengue cases in world

The study indicates there are **33 million** dengue cases in India

• The first dengue case was reported in India way back in **1946**

• After that, there was no major outbreak for two decades

• First major epidemic occurred in Kolkata in **1963**

2014 **704**

2015 **1,831**

2016 **4,037**

2017 **5,369**

2018 **4,592**

2019 **1,500**

(Till Aug first week)

PRECAUTIONS & PREVENTIVE METHODS

• Keep home, environment and surroundings clean

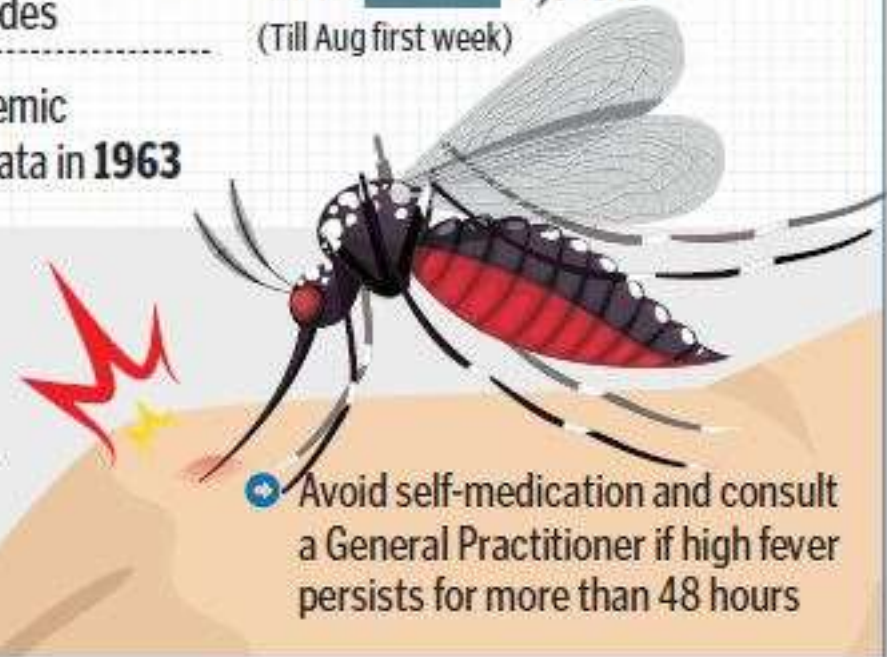
• Remove stagnant water from containers, dumped tyres, air-coolers etc.

• Use mosquito repellents, medicated screens, coils and sprays

• Observe dry day once a week

• Keep drains well maintained and repair chokes

• Avoid self-medication and consult a General Practitioner if high fever persists for more than 48 hours





40% of world population live in areas with the risk of dengue transmission.

DENGUE

A viral infection spread by *Aedes aegypti* mosquito



1800 cases were reported in Delhi alone last year.

HOW TO PREVENT DENGUE!



Prevent water stagnation.



Spray bleaching powder on stagnant water bodies.



Avoid mosquito bites.



Wear clothes that cover you fully



TESTS TO DIAGNOSE DENGUE!

- Initial 3-4 days - Dengue NS1 Antigen
- Later - Dengue Serology Test



DANGER SIGNS OF DENGUE!

- Vomiting
- Breathlessness
- Bleeding from any site

If the symptoms persist go to a doctor ASAP!

HOW TO MANAGE DENGUE



Take lots of rest and limit physical activity.



Have plenty of fluids to maintain hydration.



Have plenty of fresh fruits & vegetables.



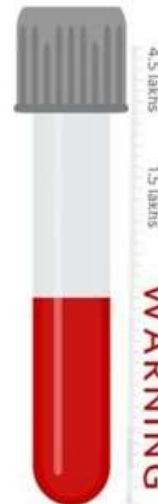
Take your medication on time, avoid analgesic/painkiller



Do not panic.



Consult your physician before taking any medicine



4.5 lakhs
1.5 lakhs

IDEAL PLATELET COUNT

1.5 LAKHS-4.5 LAKHS per microlitre of blood.

In Dengue fever platelet count falls below 100,000/ML OF BLOOD. If the platelet count shows a declining trend and other symptoms like - rashes, bleeding tendencies, breathlessness etc. - your doctor may advise hospitalization.

If count is less than 20,000/ML, you must go to the hospital

WARNING



VACANCIES FILLED
Ex-Foreign Secretary, 3 others nominated to RS
NEWS • PAGE 2



MULTITASKED ARTIST
Veteran Telugu actor Kota Srinivasa Rao passes away
STATES • PAGE 2



AIR REPORT
No urgent worries over Boeing 787s: U.S. FAA
NEWS • PAGE 4

IMPLICIT TO EXPLICIT
The evolution of secularism
What the supporters of a theocratic state fail to understand
EDITORIAL • PAGE 8

FLUCTUATING FORTUNES
Washington shines, but India wobbles
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INSIDE



Israeli strikes kill 30 people in Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip killed at least 30 people on Sunday, including six children at a water collection point, while the Palestinian death toll passed 50,000 after 31 months of war, officials said. **▶ PAGE 14**

EU to delay U.S. tariff response

BRUSSELS EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said on Sunday that Brussels will keep holding off on hitting back at U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs, as it seeks a deal to ward off broader 30% duties. **▶ PAGE 15**

Foreigners found on Bihar voter rolls, says EC

I Poll body says large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar found during verification **I** Names of such people will not be included in the final list to be published on September 30, it says **I** INDIA leaders reject claim, express concerns over data presented by the EC related to the SIR process

Deepjyoti Chakrabarty
Amit Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI/PATNA

The Election Commission on Sunday said that a large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar were found during house-to-house verification of electoral rolls as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) process in Bihar. The names of such people will not be included in the final voter list to be published on September 30, it added.

The SIR began on June 28 and the last date for submitting enumeration forms given by house-level officers (HLOs) to voters is July 28, following which a draft list will be brought out on August 3. The EC said a proper enquiry will be conducted after the draft list is released. The poll body's move is significant in view of the Assembly polls scheduled next year in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu, and comes as various States are cracking down on illegal immigrants from countries including Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Earlier, leaders of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had jointly attacked the EC, alleging contradictions and democratic concerns in the data presented by the poll body on Saturday related to the SIR process. The leaders, including Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, said that such shortcomings call into question "public trust" in the process. He alleged that fake data were being uploaded on EC sites.

Enumeration activities going on at Nijawada for the special intensive revision in Bihar on Sunday. **AN**

Letting out the alleged shortcomings, Mr. Yadav said the EC had said that 80.1% of voters had submitted the enumeration forms, but it had not announced how many of these forms were filled in a verified, voluntary and valid manner.

Mr. Yadav also rejected the EC's claim that a large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar were found during SIR process.



Enumeration activities going on at Nijawada for the special intensive revision in Bihar on Sunday. **AN**

Replying to the question on the EC's claim, Mr. Yadav said the poll body is planting news through sources so that it can play its game behind the scenes. "These are the same sources that claimed

we had captured Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi during Operation Sindoor," he said.

Bihar BJP spokesperson Nitesh Kumar took a dig at Mr. Yadav. "Calling the Election Commission's source 'unreliable' is the real face of the BJP. Tejashwi's harsh language reflects his frustration over defeat, as the people of Bihar have rejected his negative politics. By questioning the EC's impartiality, does Tejashwi want to push Bihar back into the fire of jungle raj?"

Fake signatures
On the question of data by the poll body, Mr. Yadav, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, said "It is being reported continuously that the forms are being uploaded by HLOs by using fake thumb imprints or signatures without the knowledge and consent of the voters. The figures merely show the uploading of formal, while the EC has not given any guarantee of authenticity, consent and validity. The claims of the EC are completely contrary to ground reality."

Various Opposition parties have questioned the SIR as "fake. National Register of Citizens through the backdoor" and said it will result in disenfranchisement of marginalised communities, minorities who will not have the said documents.

Mr. Yadav also pointed out that the EC had not issued any formal revised notification despite the Supreme Court's advice to consider Aadhaar and ration cards as valid proof for the SIR process.

FLUCTUATING FORTUNES
Washington shines, but India wobbles
SPORT • PAGE 12

Dip before the trip



Reverent start: Devotees take a dip in the Ganga in Haridwar on Sunday during the annual Kumbh Mela. The Uttar Pradesh government has deployed security forces and is monitoring social media to maintain law and order in the State which falls along the yatra route. **PTI**

Another Nipah death in Palakkad leads to alert in six Kerala districts

Abdul Latheef Naha

A fresh Nipah case in Palakkad district of Kerala has sparked fears that the deadly virus is still lurking despite efforts by the health authorities to contain its spread.

Palakkad reported the second Nipah case on Saturday night as a 58-year-old man from Kuttanur, near Mannarkkad, tested positive for the virus after his death in a private hospital at Perinthalamana. He had been under treatment at the hospital with fever.

Even before the official confirmation from the Na-

tional Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, came, health authorities in Palakkad and Malappuram districts swiftly initiated contact tracing for individuals who interacted with him over the past three weeks. As many as 40 people who were in contact with the infected person have been traced.

Apart from the two districts, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Kannur, and Wayanad districts have also been put on alert.

Health Minister Venu George said on Sunday that a detailed contact list and route map had been prepared and was awaiting release, pending confirma-



prepare the route map. A family tree of the deceased person too has been mapped out.

The Minister said that bedwork in and around Kuttanur was ramped up on Sunday. Even surveillance is going on and multiple health worker teams will conduct door-to-door visits to allay fears and provide guidance on precautions.

"We will bolster our fight against Nipah by strengthening the health teams involved in it and intensifying preventive measures soon as we get the final confirmation from NIV, Pune," Ms. George said.

Shubhanshu Shukla prepares for journey back home

Hemant C.S.
BENGALURU

Ahead of his journey back to earth, Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on Sunday said today's India looks ambitious, fearless, confident, and full of pride.

"Forty-one years ago, an Indian went to space, and he also described how India looks from above, and you all want to know how India looks from here. Let me tell you, today's India from space looks ambitious, fearless, confident, and full of pride, because of these reasons, I am telling you again, 'Aaj ka Bharat abhi hi sare jahan se achha dikhata hai'. Today's India still looks the best in the world. Let's aim to see earth soon," Group Captain Shukla, said at a farewell ceremony on the International Space Station (ISS).

After two-and-a-half weeks at the ISS, the Indian

astronaut will be embarking on his journey back to earth on Monday.

Group Captain Shukla, a pilot on the Axiom Mission 3, along with three other crew members of the mission, is scheduled to undock from the ISS's Harmony module at 4.35 p.m. IST.

The crew's journey back to earth would take about 22.5 hours. Following a series of orbital manoeuvres after undocking, the SpaceX Dragon capsule carrying the astronauts is expected to splash down off the coast of California in U.S. at 3 p.m. DST on Tuesday.

"My journey [to the ISS] is going to get over, but the world, let's say, is not over. The journey of our human space mission is a long and also difficult one. But I can assure you that if we are determined, even stars are attainable," Group Captain Shukla said.



Showering shortly before astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla aboard the International Space Station during his 42nd mission. **PTI**

"Thanking fellow astronauts at the ISS, he said they had made his and AS-4 crew members' stay special."

"For the last two-and-a-half weeks, we have done a lot of science in the station, (and) outreach activities, and looked back at earth when we found time. It almost seems magical to me. These missions have very far-reaching implications beyond science and that is what I believe, back from here, I carry with me a lot of memories, but one thing that really sticks to me is what humanity is capable of when all of us come together from different parts of the world and work for a common goal," he said.

Group Captain Shukla, who became the first Indian astronaut to go to the ISS, and the first Indian to reach space in 41 years, was to spend up to 14 days at the ISS. However, his stay got extended by a few days.

During his stay at the orbiting laboratory, he conducted several microgravity research experiments proposed by Indians from national R&D laboratories and academic institutions.

He also spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and had a couple of interactions with the student community back home via radio.

"The AS-4 research complement includes a host of non-scientific studies and activities representing 31 countries, including the U.S., India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Nigeria, the UAE, and nations across Europe."

apalakkad, Group Captain Shukla will undergo a rehabilitation programme for about a week, under the supervision of flight surgeons, in order to adapt back to earth's gravity.

Ex-BJP member among 3 shot dead in Bihar over two days

Amit Bhattacharya
PATNA

Three persons, including a former BJP leader, were shot dead in separate incidents over two days in Patna. The shooting, coming in the wake of the murder of prominent industrialist Gopal Khemka here on July 4, triggered political outrage.

While Surendra Kumar, then president of the BJP Kisan Morcha at Purnima area of Patna, and Waseem Ansari Khan, a local businessman, were murdered on Saturday night, Jitendra Kumar, a lawyer, was shot dead in broad daylight in Patna city on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police Paritosh Kumar said criminals opened fire on the former BJP functionary while he was inspecting his field. He was admitted to the All India Institute of



Chain of murders: The police in the spot where a lawyer was shot dead in Patna on Sunday. **SPI/ANASSAMBAH**

Medical Sciences, Patna, where he died during treatment. "The incident took place in the Purnima police station limits in rural Patna district."

In a similar incident, the police said, a shopkeeper, businessman, was shot dead by three unknown persons in the Mahadip police station limits in Sitamarhi district around 9 p.m.

One person was de-

Foreigners found on Bihar voter rolls, says EC

Poll body says large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar found during verification

Names of such people will not be included in the final list to be published on September 30, it says

INDIA leaders reject claim, express concerns over data presented by the EC related to the SIR process

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

Amit Bhelari

NEW DELHI/PATNA

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The SIR began on June 25 and the last date for submitting enumeration forms given by booth-level officers (BLOs) to voters is July 25, following which a draft list will be brought out on August 1. The EC said a proper enquiry will be conducted after the draft list is

released. The poll body's move is significant in view of the Assembly polls scheduled next year in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu, and comes as various States are cracking down on illegal immigrants from countries including Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Earlier, leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had jointly attacked the EC, alleging contradictions and democratic concerns in the data presented by the poll body on Saturday related to the SIR process. The leaders, including Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, said that such shortcomings call into question "public trust" in the process. He alleged that fake data were being uploaded on EC sites.



Enumeration activities going on at Nawada for the special intensive revision in Bihar on Sunday. ANI

Listing out the alleged shortcomings, Mr. Yadav said the EC had claimed that 80.11% of voters had submitted the enumeration forms, but it had not announced how many of these forms were filled in a

verified, voluntary and valid manner.

Mr. Yadav also rejected the EC's claim that a large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar were found during SIR process.

Replying to the question on the EC's claim, Mr. Yadav said the poll body is planting news through sources so that it can play its game behind the scenes. "These are the same sources that claimed

we had captured Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi during Operation Sindoor," he said.

Bihar BJP spokesperson Niraj Kumar took a dig at Mr. Yadav. "Calling the Election Commission's source 'urine', is the real face of the RJD. Tejashwi's filthy language reflects his frustration over defeat, as the people of Bihar have rejected his negative politics. By questioning the EC's impartiality, does Tejashwi want to push Bihar back into the fire of jungle raj?"

Fake signatures

On the question of data by the poll body, Mr. Yadav, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, said: "It is being reported continuously that the forms are being uploaded by BLOs by using fake thumb imprints or sig-

natures without the knowledge and consent of the voters. The figures merely show the uploading [of forms], while the EC has not given any guarantee of authenticity, consent and validity. The claims of the EC are completely contrary to ground reality."

Various Opposition parties have questioned the EC and branded the SIR as "NRC [National Register of Citizens] through the backdoor" which will result in disenfranchisement of marginalised communities, minorities who will not have the said documents.

Mr. Yadav also pointed out that the EC had not issued any formal revised notification despite the Supreme Court's advice to consider Aadhaar and ration cards as valid proof for the SIR process.

- The **Election Commission of India (EC)**, during a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in **Bihar**, reported the presence of foreigners—allegedly from **Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar**—on the voter rolls.
 - This sparked a political controversy ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections in key states.
-

◆ Key Points from the Article:

1. SIR Timeline & Process:

- Started: **June 25**
- BLOs submit forms by: **July 25**
- Draft voter list release: **August 1**
- Final voter list: **September 30**
- EC to conduct a **probe after August 1**.

2. EC's Claim:

- Found "large number" of foreigners (Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar) on the rolls.
- These names will be excluded from final list.
- SIR process involves **house-to-house verification** by **Booth Level Officers (BLOs)**.

3. Opposition Allegations:

- **Tejashwi Yadav (RJD):**
 - Called the data "fake" and EC's source "unreliable."
 - Alleged EC is acting under political pressure.
 - Opposed linking SIR with NRC ("NRC through the backdoor").
 - Cited fake forms uploaded using forged fingerprints or signatures.

4. Concerns Raised:

- EC hasn't verified authenticity or validity of forms.
- Accusations of **disenfranchisement of marginalized communities** and **minorities**.
- Lack of Supreme Court-mandated notification to allow **Aadhaar and ration cards** as voter ID proof.



IN BRIEF



Cabinet appoints Abhijit Sheth NMC Chairperson

The Union Cabinet has appointed Abhijit Sheth as the new Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC), replacing Suresh Gangadhar, who stepped down due to health concerns. Dr. Sheth, a cardiothoracic surgeon, said that his priority would be to improve quality of medical education, promote good governance, and foster teamwork to achieve governmental objectives. Dr. Gangadhar, former Chairperson, NMC, had submitted his resignation last October. "As there had been no suitable candidate available, his tenure was continued," official sources said. Dr. Sheth is also the President of the National Board of Examinations in Sciences.

India joins military exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia

India, along with 10 other nations, is participating in Talisman Sabre 2025, a major bilateral military drill led by Australia that commenced on Sunday. Now in its 11th iteration, the Talisman Sabre is the largest and most sophisticated wargaming exercise ever conducted in the continent, the Department of Defence, Australia, said in a statement. "More than 35,000 military personnel from Australia and partner nations will deploy across Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales and Christmas Island. Activities will also be conducted outside Australia in Papua New Guinea," it added.

Southern Railway launches drive to ensure safety at level crossing gates

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Three days after a speeding passenger train rammed into a school van, killing three students and injuring two others, at Semmanakuppam in Cuddalore district on the morning of July 8, Southern Railway has launched an on-site safety drive to ensure safety at non-interlocked level crossing gates.

According to railway sources, the action plan devised at a meeting convened by Southern Railway General Manager S.N. Singh with top officials aims to eliminate outward incidents at non-interlocked level crossings.

Avoid reports that the gatekeeper dozed off leaving the gate open, which led to the accident, it was decided to train gatekeepers with a history of unsafe working behaviour, particularly sleeping and alcohol



Stricter enforcement: Safety officers have been told to conduct surprise checks at level crossings in the zone. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

consumption. Gatekeepers will be retrained for their knowledge, discipline, and behaviour, and given fresh competency certificates. Inspectors were told to visit non-interlocked level crossings and check the Private Number registers and status of the gates. In case of violations such as gates being kept open without the permission of the Station Master, giving false confirmation to the

will be "liberally" changed to 10 hours. Similarly, working hours of Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters will also be revisited and relaxed depending on the workload, the sources said.

Ensuring visibility

Preliminary inquiries conducted by the railway police at the accident site in Semmanakuppam revealed that there were wild bushes blocking visibility of the track. The high-level meeting took note of this serious issue and issued instructions to the Principal Chief Engineer and Divisional Railway Managers to ensure visibility for road users for a metre from the centre of the track on both sides.

"If visibility is found to be obstructed by bushes or other structures, it should be cleared in 10 days. In our fail," a note issued after the meeting said.

CCTV cameras to be fixed in 74,000 coaches: Railways

This will significantly improve safety of passengers, say officials; each coach will be equipped with four dome-type cameras placed at the entrance; cameras will be installed in 15,000 locomotives

Mahesh Choudhary
NEW DELHI

Following the experimental installation of CCTV cameras in passenger coaches of the Northern Railway, the Indian Railways has decided to install them in all of its approximately 74,000 coaches across the countrywide rail network, officials of the Union Railway Ministry said on Sunday.

"This move will significantly improve passenger safety. Miscreants and organised gangs take advantage of godfide passengers. With cameras, such incidents will reduce significantly. To preserve the privacy of passengers, CCTV cameras will be installed in the common movement area near the doors," an official said.

The decision was taken on Saturday when Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the progress in installing CCTV cameras in locomotives and coaches.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Railway Board. The official said, each locomotive will



High-tech surveillance: These cameras will have latest specifications and will undergo standardisation testing and Quality Certification by the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT. CTVM/ISSUES

have six CCTV cameras. This will include one in the loco engine and coaches of the Northern Railway.

Mr. Vaishnaw gave the go-ahead to install CCTV cameras in all 74,000 coaches and 15,000 locomotives.

Complete coverage

Each railway coach will be covered by four dome-type CCTV cameras, with two in each coach and two in the entrance way.

Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) by the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT.

High-quality cameras should be available even for trains running at speeds over 100 kmph, and in low light conditions, the Union Minister told Railway officials, asking them to explore the use of AI on the data captured by the CCTV cameras, in collaboration with the Indian Railways.

'High speed, low light'

The CCTV cameras will have the latest specified features, and will undergo

Curb sale of fake fertilizers: Chouhan urges Chief Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Singh Chouhan on Sunday wrote to the Chief Ministers of all States, asking them to launch a campaign for ensuring fertilizer quality.

He urged them to ensure strict action against sub-standard and counterfeit fertilizers, reminding them that it was essential to provide farmers with quality fertilizers at the right time, at affordable prices, and of standard quality.

The Agriculture Ministry said in a release that the letter has been issued to ensure quality for road users for a metre from the centre of the track on both sides. The release said, "If visibility is found to be obstructed by bushes or other structures, it should be cleared in 10 days. In our fail," a note issued after the meeting said.

prohibited under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, which fall under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. He said it was the responsibility of the States to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers at the right places and locations where it was required.

"Therefore, States must strictly monitor and take swift action against activities such as black marketing, overpricing, and diversion of subsidized fertilizers," he said.

Urging the States to regularly monitor fertilizer production and sale, he asked the Chief Ministers to carry out regular sampling and testing to ensure quality of fertilizers, black marketing of subsidized fertilizers, and illegal sale of fake fertilizers or bio-stimulant products along with counterfeit or sub-standard fertilizers was

Reaching Jarawa tribe of Andaman Islands for Census will not be tough

Rindu Shalan Perampadan
Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Conducting the 2027 Census among the six main indigenous tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will not be tough as the Union government has already made contact and is running several welfare measures for these tribes, says physician Ratan Chandra Kar, speaking to The Hindu.

The government has announced that the 16th Census will take place in two phases, with the reference date of October 1, 2026 in snow-bound areas such as Ladakh, and March 1, 2027 in the rest of the country.

Dr. Kar, who played an important role in preventing healthcare to the Jarawa tribe of the Andaman Islands, began his work with the tribes in 1998, combating a devastating outbreak in 1999 that threatened the tribe's existence.

The Jarawas are one of the world's oldest surviving tribes and are mostly hunter-gatherers, living in nomadic bands of 40 to 50 individuals.

Explaining the population growth trajectory of the tribe, he says the Jarawas are not the local population in September 1959.

The 2011 Census recorded 300 Jarawa individuals out of the 28,530 Scheduled Tribes individuals across Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The community counted under the ST population also included Andamanese, Nicobarese, and Onges, and Santals. Except the Nicobarese, all communities have been classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

With the next Census yet to be conducted, the Tribal Affairs Ministry has found it challenging to estimate the population of PVTGs, including in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. While implementing targeted scheme-delivery programmes like the PVTG Mission for PVTG households. According to this scheme's provision, the government has been able to identify the PVTG individuals and their families in Nicobar Islands.

"At that time, their population was 200 and as of today, their population has increased to 300. This increase has been possible and achieved on account



The Jarawas, one of the world's oldest surviving tribes, are mostly hunter-gatherers.

of the Central government's successful attempt to establish meaningful contact with them, winning their trust and developing friendly relations," Dr. Kar says.

He explains that in 1998, the population count was more of a "guess or estimate" based on limited contact but that the population count as of 2026 is "far more accurate" given the extent of contact made since then and the use of satellite imagery for this purpose.

Dr. Kar adds that the government has been able to provide sustained, targeted, and proactive medical care as and when required and because of this "we have successfully countered all such occurrences of new diseases/infections (measles, malaria, coronavirus, mumps, hepatitis, and others) without any significant mortality."

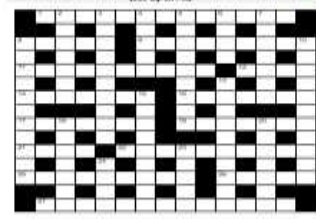
The policy decision taken to provide proactive and preventive medical coverage without interfering in their own medicinal practices has led to this achievement of increase in population," he says, adding that this trust will ensure that officials get full access during the upcoming Census exercise.

Andaman Trunk Road

Speaking about the impact of the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) in terms of access and intrusion to the tribal settlement, he says the best chance of survival for the Jarawas is "we leave them alone with minimal intervention."

"The tribe doesn't suffer from any lifestyle diseases including heart problems, diabetes, hypertension etc. deliveries are almost always normal and normal life span is up to 80 plus years. We only need to offer modern medical care as a supplement to their own system of natural medicine and immunity," he says.

CROSSWORD



- Across
1. Angerly pursues greater in lobby (5)
 2. Incarceration, primarily due to style of dance music (5)
 3. Betting spots, whiskey, brewed soup, zesty and became less drunk (1,2)
 4. Reassured threatening worker close to steady bar in deprived area (10)

1436

- Down
1. Rejoicing prince killed in the club (7)
 2. Dirty secret about last leader of biggers (3)
 3. Loose nut holding framework, essentially not yet fixed (3)
 4. Ignite before new devoted disk (5,6)
 5. Ecumenical opening of restaurant for two food (7)
 6. Weakness is constant, taking oxygen for reality finally (7)
 7. Composed next, precise words of farewell (8,9)
 8. What guitarist might do to use influence (6,7)
 9. Coaster starts increases in climb to summit (10)
 10. Company member permitted to tackle permanent (reduced with) in low-breaking (9)
 11. Very precise being grabbing model close to studio (8,9)
 12. Director on vacation needs had in German city (5)
 13. Entertaining retro party, endlessly about and sing with rapidly changing catch (5)
 14. Saw a spider trapping insect (3)

SUDOKU

3	4		8		1		
9						8	
	7	6	1				
	4		5	8			
	2		7		5		
		3	1		9		
				9	2	1	
5	3		4		8	4	
					9	5	

3	4		8		1		
9						8	
	7	6	1				
	4		5	8			
	2		7		5		
		3	1		9		
				9	2	1	
5	3		4		8	4	
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FAITH

God kindles your quest

Knowledge is power, but what is the use of acquiring it without letting go of worldly pleasures? One will keep repeating the cycle of births and rebirths, with no lasting peace or true realization. Knowledge alone is not enough to bring inner peace, rather it will become a mental burden, said Ramanacharana Thirva Swami (Nectar). Plants have life, as do birds, but what is the use of living like that? Man, who alone among creation has the ability to discern, should mature the thirst for knowledge and moksha and the company of sages in order to be instructed on truth. Only then will such a person's life be fulfilled.

This Brahmin Gnanam of realisation of the Lord is hidden inside the human mind. Great souls attain this knowledge of Brahman by focusing their minds on God, and distancing themselves from the clutter of a material world. In Vivekachudamani, Adi Shankara emphasises this, saying, "Anta manas supa jivanam dharidram...". To be born as a human being is a rare gift and one should utilise it for spiritual progress and not mispend it in chasing impermanent goals that gratify only the senses and do nothing to uplift the soul. Ramana Maharshi had attested that inner peace and detachment, when very young. The Maharshi famously said, "Pudhuv viradhu Eshwaru katha purudhathi nirubhithanayey, artham karinau katha Arunachaleswara." (You saved me from falling into the pit, and kept me close to you, Arunachaleswara, Oh ocean of knowledge). When one turns one's mind towards higher things, God Himself steps up to help such a person. As Krishna says in the Gita, "I will kindle the quest for Brahman Gnanam in those who repose faith in me."

India joins military exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia

India, along with 18 other nations, is participating in Talisman Sabre 2025, a major bilateral military drill led by Australia that commenced on Sunday. Now in its 11th iteration, the Talisman Sabre is the largest and most sophisticated warfighting exercise ever conducted in the continent, the Department of Defence, Australia, said in a statement. “More than 35,000 military personnel from Australia and partnering nations will deploy across Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales and Christmas Island. Activities will also be conducted outside Australia in Papua New Guinea,” it added.

Meet the modern Indian family pets, Alexa, et al



Larger than life: Alexa and smartwatches are playing a critical role in emotional support, sources

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani

Think 'family' and what comes to mind? A small cosy unit with a husband, wife and two kids? Or a larger unit made up of grandparents, parents and children? Think again. Families are no longer forged by blood ties. The family of today could possibly comprise a single woman, her pet dog and online cats, a live-in house help who has mostly opinions, and Siri and Alexa.

Drawing on its NeedsScope research framework, which leverages consumer emotions, Kantar's report 'The Urban Indian Family 2025' has delved deep into how modern Indian households are evolving. Old classifications are passé. No longer can households be structured as joint or nuclear units. "It is not a monolith. It is not even a democracy. It is a coalition government with no clear majority, where policies are made on the fly, alliances shift overnight, and everyone claims to be in charge," the report says.

The report has deep implications for brands, which need to understand the nuances of the flurrying lines between blood ties and bonds forged on friendship and emotional needs. Between ordering on Blinkit to recreate grandma's recipe and seeking help from ChatGPT to craft wedding loss plans and embracing festivals with fervour, urban Indian households are juggling modern lifestyles with long-standing traditions. WhatsApp group is the new living rooms and rituals are up for a reboot.

Full house again

There has been a nearly 50 per cent jump in the proportion of unmarried 18- to 24-year-olds living with parents over the last five years, indicating a shift towards interdependence — "the return to full house".

This also means that the definition of 'family' has expanded. "Families are no longer defined by bloodlines but by those who show up. There are both visible and invisible extensions in the urban families. So the emotional anchors in the families are changing," says Meenakshi Choudhury, Director-Qualitative (West) Insights Division, Kantar.

With India's pet population expected to increase to 40 million by 2026, this means golden retrievers, Labrador and Persian cats are not just featuring in reels but also emotional mainstays. Household helps, drivers and nannies are increasingly playing the role of "the third parent". Alexa, smartwatches and WhatsApp groups are playing a critical role in families, not just for logistics but also emotional support.

"Brands will need to start recognizing and celebrate these new forms of family bonds — empathy and reliability, not just lineage... they should not attempt to portray the ideal Indian family as typically consisting of one dad, one mom, one child, one dog and one cat. It's a new family unit, one that is more fluid and adaptable. A critical sub-section between Vaitaraana and Bhar is scheduled for

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Big tech's AI ad tools rattle agencies

Yet again, the death knell has been sounded for ad agencies, but hang on, they still do have a role to play due to their understanding of clients. Agencies will also play a significant part in the data that points AI in the right direction towards achieving a marketer's outcome.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vallabh Samal

For the last few months, twigs, in this hyperlocal food delivery platform, had been involved in the beta testing of Google's advertising-focused AI solutions to boost its reach to audiences. One of these solutions was an improved version of Performance Max, which allows e-commerce users to re-engage with existing customers who are inactive.

"We've seen Performance Max help new user growth, creating an additional impact within the range of 15% to 25%. The bigger part is bringing down our costs. For different products, we've seen the costs vary anywhere between 25% and 40%," said Arpan Choudhary, Vice President of Revenue and Growth at Swiggy, during the launch event of Google's new tools in July.

Incidentally, Swiggy reported an improvement in ROAS margins and attributed this to momentum in food delivery and the execution of its quick commerce vertical last month.

At the Google event, not only did the tech major launch several tools such as AI Max Research Campaigns and Demand Chat but it also said it would soon roll out agency capabilities across Google Ads and Google Analytics globally. With these AI assistants, advertisers could set up campaigns that

drive higher performance, from onboarding and campaign creation to reporting and optimisation. "We've seen Performance Max help new user growth, creating an additional impact within the range of 15% to 25%," said Arpan Choudhary, Vice President of Revenue and Growth at Swiggy.



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Top gear: Meta is rolling out solutions to automate ad creation as well as buy and display ads. META/RE

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Dedicated rail freight corridor nears finish line

Abhishek Law

India's big-ticket rail infrastructure project, the dedicated freight corridor (DFC), is nearing completion.

The ₹1.28-lakh-crore twin-corridor initiative, aimed at overhauling the country's freight movement, is being fully commissioned by December, a senior official of the Indian Railways Corporation of India Ltd (IRCON) said.

The last stretch of the western DFC, about 110 km, is in the final stages of development. This stretch has missed multiple deadlines in view of the seasonal nature of the construction work, leading to delays. "A critical sub-section between Vaitaraana and Bhar is scheduled for

commissioning in August, for phased commercial operation. The eastern DFC is already operational. The western DFC mostly carries container and cement cargo.

The DFC creates 3,300 km of electric, double-track, 1,875 km eastern DFC and 1,500 km western DFC, reinforcing the

On tracks: The last stretch of the western DFC, about 110 km, is in the final stages of development. IR/IRCON

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The DFC creates 3,300 km of electric, double-track, 1,875 km eastern DFC and 1,500 km western DFC, reinforcing the

freight backbone between Punjab and Bihar to be later extended to West Bengal, and between Haryana and Maharashtra.

The corridor decongests existing passenger routes, reduces logistics costs, and cut carbon emissions. The system is built to handle speeds up to 100 kmph — double the average speed of Indian Railways' freight trains today. Currently, it is in the final stages of development.

The full-scale commissioning is expected by mid-2026, with the corridor jointly handling 400

trains daily (240 in each direction).

The DFCCL is making itself future-ready. The detailed project reports (DPRs) for three new corridors — the East Coast, East-West, and North-South — have already been submitted to the Ministry of Railways. The estimated cost is ₹4 lakh crore.

If cleared, the East Coast corridor (Barradi to Vijaya-wada) will take priority followed by East-West (Chennai to Mangalore) and North-South (Delhi to Chennai).

With most of the funding currently sourced from the World Bank and other international agencies, DFCCL is now considering

financing options like Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for lower-cost borrowings — the East Coast's initial tranche of about ₹5,000 crore is expected to be refinanced after clearance.

With the Railways opening up corridor maintenance to public sector and private players, DFCCL may explore the prospect of bidding for upcoming maintenance and infrastructure projects.

As a pilot project to extend services like parcel express trains, especially to underserved areas like Patna, and invest in rolling stock capable of higher speeds.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Quick comm firms double dark stores to meet fast delivery demand

TE Raja Simhan

As more and more customers look for 10- to 15-minute delivery of their daily needs, quick commerce companies such as Zepto and Zippex have doubled the number of their dark stores — micro warehousing units of 3,000-8,000 square feet.

Zepto's quick delivery platform, Instamart, increased the number of dark stores to 1,021 at the end of March 31, from 521 a year ago. It added 216 stores in the March quarter alone. The average number of daily orders per dark store exceeded 1,000, the company says in a letter written to shareholders for the fourth quarter.

Instamart, the Q-commerce platform of Eternal

led (formerly Zomato), added 294 new stores in the fourth quarter of FY25, its biggest ever quarterly store expansion. It targets 2,500 stores by the third quarter of FY26, a year earlier than its previous goal, according to Kantar Research.

The company's management stated that with competitive intensity increasing in the sector, further investments are expected. It emphasised a continued focus on cost efficiency, even if it meant prioritising sales over short-term profitability, the research firm said.

New entrant Zippex has more than doubled the number of its dark stores to 83 in FY26, from 38 in the previous fiscal.

At the end of March 31, from 521 a year ago. It added 216 stores in the March quarter alone. The average number of daily orders per dark store exceeded 1,000, the company says in a letter written to shareholders for the fourth quarter.

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Big tech's AI ad tools rattle agencies

Yet again, the death knell has been sounded for ad agencies; but hang on, they still do have a role to play due to their understanding of clients; agencies will also play a significant part in the data that points AI in the right direction towards achieving a marketer's outcome.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vallari Sanzgiri

For the last few months, Swiggy, India's hyperlocal food delivery platform, had been involved in the beta testing of Google's advertising-focused AI solutions to boost its reach to audiences. One of these solutions was an improved version of Performance Max, which allows e-commerce users to re-engage with existing customers who are inactive.

"We've seen Performance Max help new user growth, creating an additional impact within the range of 15% to 25%. The bigger part is bringing down our costs. For different hyperlocals, we've seen the costs vary anywhere between 25% and 40%," said Arjun Choudhary, Vice President of Revenue and Growth at Swiggy, during the launch event of Google's new tools in July.

Incidentally, Swiggy reported an improvement in EBIT margins and attributed this to momentum in food delivery and the expansion of its quick commerce vertical last month.

At the Google event, not only did the tech major launch several tools such as AI Max Research Campaigns and Demand Chat but it also said it would soon roll out agentic AI capabilities across Google Ads and Google Analytics globally. With these AI assistants, advertisers could set up campaigns that

drive higher performance, from onboarding and campaign creation to reporting and troubleshooting.

It's not just Google. Meta has been rolling out solutions to automate ad creation as well as buy and deploy ads. Traditional advertising agencies that play a huge role in the \$963 billion ad market have a reason to be nervous. The new AI solutions being rolled out by the tech majors are so disruptive they could well kill the agency model.

Industry observers are already commenting on how big a change is happening.

Take BoFA Securities, the corporate and investment banking division of Bank of America, which noted that Meta's AI assistant is an "underappreciated opportunity" with the potential to become a cen-



We've seen Performance Max help new user growth, creating an additional impact within the range of 15% to 25%

ARJUN CHOUDHARY
Vice President of Revenue and Growth at Swiggy

tral interface for content discovery, commerce, and productivity.

Sanchit Vir Gogia, CEO and Chief Analyst at Greyhound Research, said Meta's end-to-end advertising vision marks a "structural rupture" in how advertising is executed.

"This shift erodes the agency's historical domain of media planning and creative scale. However, this is a forced reinvention moment for agencies. The long-term value of creative strategy, brand steward-

ship, and ethical guardrails remains beyond the reach of today's AI," said Gogia, advising agencies to deliver value where AI falls short. These areas include cultural intelligence, creative originality, and campaign governance.

What's changing

With big tech doubling down on the advertising market, analysts have been debating the future of the creative and marketing agencies.

According to Jay Pattisall, VP, Principal Analyst, Forrester, agencies will bifurcate into enterprise and SMB (small and medium-sized business) providers. Large agency networks have built AI technologies that are comparable to Meta and Google's tools in some respects and superior in others, he said, giving the example of agency

tools that are better at brand governance and cross-platform optimisation. "SMB providers will be more focused on executing for clients using Meta, Google and Amazon's tools. Since big ad tech's AI tools will likely produce creatives that lack differentiation, SMB agencies will be charged with building the brand into the campaigns that run on social platforms and through their DSPs (demand-side platforms)," said Pattisall.

Similarly, Manish Solanki, COO and Co-founder, TheSmallBigIdea, said the world is moving in a direction where media buying becomes faster and more automated. This means that resources handling performance marketing might evolve into a more analytical role where the real win will be in creativity and cultural relevance.

"We have to ensure that we move up the value chain – we double down on what AI or platforms can't do, strong brand thinking and smart creatives. Be the advisor, don't just execute. Be the brand's unbiased partner, help them pick the right mix, not just one platform. Work with AI, not against it. If you know how to tell a story, you will stay relevant," said Solanki, pointing out that AI learns from what's available in the market while an agency will always be relevant when it comes to originality.

Solanki also estimated that running ads will get cheaper, but breaking through the noise will be

tougher. Regional content will grow finally, and there will be scale for Indian languages; but data privacy will be a big issue. Most people here aren't ready for what's coming, he opines.

Kartik Mehta, Head of Asia and CBO at Channel Factory ad-tech platform, said the maximisation of ad exposure is still in the hands of humans. "It's just going to enhance and expedite the time that it takes for campaigns to launch or campaigns to be optimised or produce the results that they need on these larger platforms. I would say [AI integration] would be a catalyst to expedite certain areas of work," said Mehta.

In fact, even Dan Taylor, Vice President, Global Ads, Google, said that advertising agencies will continue to have a huge role to play, despite the advent of AI, due to their understanding of clients. He said agencies will also play a significant part in the data that points AI in the right direction towards achieving a marketer's outcome.

"AI can generate options based on patterns, but the 'why' behind a campaign, the core strategic insight, the emotional resonance that truly connects with an audience, the ethical considerations, the final curatorial judgment, that remains fundamentally human," said Taylor.

Russhabh R Thakkar, Founder and CEO, Frodo, says, "If platforms go direct to clients, agencies won't panic, they'll pivot."

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)



Top gear: Meta is rolling out solutions to automate ad creation as well as buy and deploy ads. REUTERS

- **AI tools from tech giants** like Google, Meta, and Amazon are **disrupting the traditional advertising ecosystem**.
 - Platforms like **Google's Performance Max** and **Meta's AI ad solutions**:
 - Allow **automated ad creation, targeting, and deployment**.
 - Help in **user re-engagement and cost optimization**, leading to **15-25% better performance** in some campaigns (e.g., Swiggy).
-

Impact on Advertising Agencies:

- Traditional ad agencies face an **existential challenge** due to:
 - AI's ability to automate **creative production, media buying, optimization, and analytics**.
 - **Reduced dependence** on human creativity, especially for small and medium businesses (SMBs).

- Agencies may still survive by focusing on:
 - **Creative storytelling**
 - **Brand governance**
 - **Cross-platform campaign strategy**
 - **Human judgment & emotional resonance**
-

Industry Perspective:

- AI in advertising is seen as a “**structural change**”, not just a tech trend.
- **BofA Securities** calls Meta's AI-assisted ad system “**underappreciated**”.
- Agencies must now **pivot towards advisory and brand strategy roles**.
- **Data privacy, ethical use, and AI transparency** are key concerns.

Sinner finds salvation in hallowed grass, dethrones Alcaraz

WIMBLEDON

N. Sudarshan

LONDON

Jannik Sinner's emotionally restrained, methodical and precise tennis earned its greatest gift yet as he dethroned two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to win his first Wimbledon and fourth Major title.

For the World No. 1, it was sweet revenge for the Roland-Garros defeat, where Alcaraz had beaten him from three championship-points down in the fourth set. The 23-year-old is now the first Italian to win the singles trophy at SW19. For Alcaraz, it was a humbling experience as he was thoroughly outplayed, but for a brief period late in the opening set. It didn't help that the 22-year-old came up with a disastrous

serving performance, landing just over half of his first serves and dumping seven double-faults.

The opening four games felt like a boxing feel out. Both players peppered every part of the service box in the hope of finding an ever-so-slight weakness. Once that was done and mental notes made, action shifted to the grass beyond the 21ft x 13.5ft area.

And it was Sinner's turn to break first, in the fifth game, with two fierce backhand drives setting things up. Alcaraz, though, restored parity in the eighth, capitalising on a slew of unforced errors.

Then, at 4-4, the Spaniard lifted his level. At 15-30, he sent a superb kick serve, a backhand winner and planted an ace to go 5-4 up. On the subsequent Sinner serve, on his second set-point, he hit the shot - rather block - of the



Flying high: Sinner ended Alcaraz's reign with a dominant display. GETTY IMAGES

match until then. A Sinner forehand that would have won the point against most

players was not only tracked down but sent back in the form of a cross-

court drop winner.

The crowd erupted, Alcaraz bounced up and

down and left Sinner looking like someone who had just been struck by a lightning.

But Alcaraz's bane has always been his penchant to drift out at inopportune times. He started the second set with a double-fault and was duly broken. Even though he threatened each of Sinner's next three service games, the latter stonewalled all attempts.

It wasn't long before Sinner levelled it at one-set apiece, with two superb forehand winners, one down the line and the other hit cross-court on the run.

In the ninth game of the third stanza, Sinner sliced open the contest, with his forehand again doing the damage. At 30-30, he hit an inside-in winner, and another clean drive earned him an easy put away.

Alcaraz slipped and fell while chasing the last shot, and Sinner immediately

stopped exulting and waited until the World No. 2 gave him a thumbs-up. The niceties, though, ended there as the reigning US Open and Australian Open champion took a two-sets-to-one lead with a blistering service winner. At 1-1 in the fourth, Sinner made the play again, earning a break-point with a looping backhand winner.

A thunderous backhand return ensured a 2-1 lead. When he held to 4-2 via a lucky net-cord at 40-30, lady luck, after deserting him in Paris last month, seemed to have crossed over to his corner. So much so that he even got out of a 15-40 hole serving at 4-3.

As Alcaraz held to 4-5, the crowd went up in chorus chanting the Spaniard's name. But Sinner silenced them with a cold-blooded hold that was finished off with a monstrous service winner.

Day 14 in numbers



1 Sinner becomes the first Italian to lift the Wimbledon trophy and the first to win Slams on multiple surfaces

3 Alcaraz has tasted defeat after winning the first set for only the third time in 68 Grand Slam matches

5 Sinner is the fifth player (after Connors, Sampras, Federer and Nadal) aged 23 or under to hold three Major crowns simultaneously

81 Since 2000, only Nadal (86) has claimed more wins from his first 100 matches at Slams than Sinner

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

2025 Australian Open



Date 12–26 January 2025

Edition 113th
Open Era (57th)

Category [Grand Slam](#)

Draw 128S / 64D

Surface [Hard \(GreenSet\)](#)

Location [Melbourne, Victoria, Australia](#)

Venue [Melbourne Park](#)

Champions

Men's singles

  Jannik Sinner

Women's singles

 Madison Keys

Men's doubles

2025 French Open



Date 25 May – 8 June 2025

Edition 124th

Category [Grand Slam](#)

Surface [Clay](#)

Location [Paris \(XVI^e\), France](#)

Venue [Roland Garros Stadium](#)

Champions

Men's singles

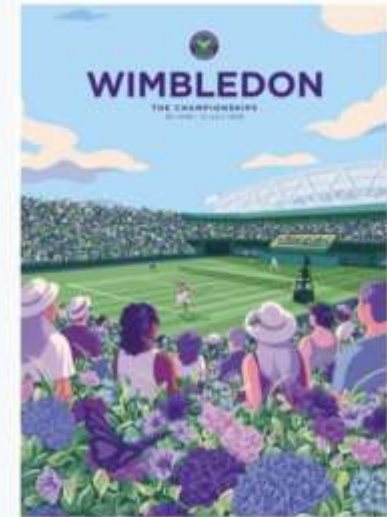
 Carlos Alcaraz

Women's singles

 Coco Gauff

Men's doubles

2025 Wimbledon Championships



2025 Wimbledon poster designed by Sarah Madden, Leeds, UK.

Date 30 June – 13 July 2025

Edition 138th

Category [Grand Slam](#) (ITF)

Draw 128S / 64D / 32XD

Prize money £53,550,000

Surface [Grass](#)

Location [Church Road](#)
[SW19, Wimbledon,](#)
[London, England](#)

Venue [All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club](#)

Champions

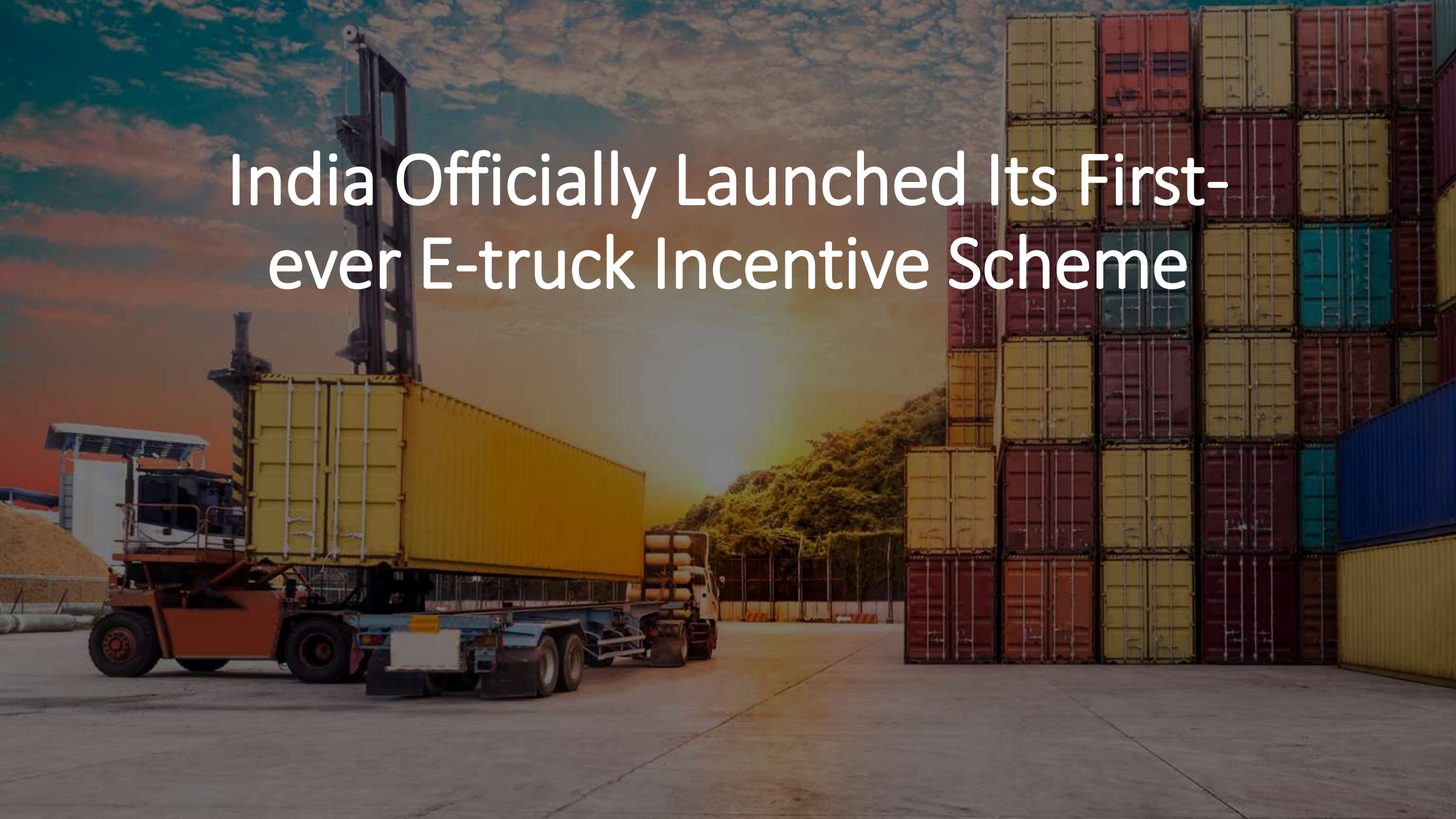
Men's singles

  Jannik Sinner

Women's singles

 Iga Świątek

India Officially Launched Its First-ever E-truck Incentive Scheme



- The Centre unveiled a scheme to provide financial incentives for purchase of **electric trucks under the PM E-Drive initiative**, where a sum of ₹500 crore has been set aside for 5,600 electric trucks.

-
- Of this financial outlay, **a fifth is dedicated for vehicles registered in Delhi.**

- **About**

- This is India's **first dedicated scheme for electric trucks**, which were not included under the earlier FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme.

- **Eligibility Conditions:** Manufacturers must provide a battery warranty of 5 years or 5 lakh kilometres, whichever is earlier.

- The vehicle and motor must carry a warranty of 5 years or 2.5 lakh kilometres.
 - To receive the incentive, scrapping of old, polluting diesel trucks is mandatory.

- **About PM E-DRIVE Scheme**

- The scheme shall be implemented from **October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026**.
- The EMPS-2024 (Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme) is being subsumed under the PM E-DRIVE scheme.
- **Subsidy:** The subsidy under the scheme for electric **two-wheelers** has been fixed based on battery power at Rs 5,000 per kilowatt hour but the overall incentive will not exceed Rs 10,000 in the first year.
 - In the second year, it will be halved by Rs 2,500 per kilowatt hour, and the overall benefit will not exceed Rs 5,000.
 - **Three-wheelers**, including e-rickshaws, will get a demand incentive of Rs 25,000 in the first year, which will be halved to Rs 12,500 in the second year.
 - **For the L5 category** (cargo three-wheelers), they will get a benefit of Rs 50,000 in the first year, and for the second year, it is Rs 25,000.

A world map where the landmasses are filled with a dense collection of small, multi-colored dots in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with North and South America on the left and Europe and Africa on the right. The background is a solid dark gray.

World Population Day 2025 and India's Youth

Celebrating World Population Day: A Journey Through Time

Establishment of
World Population
Day by UN

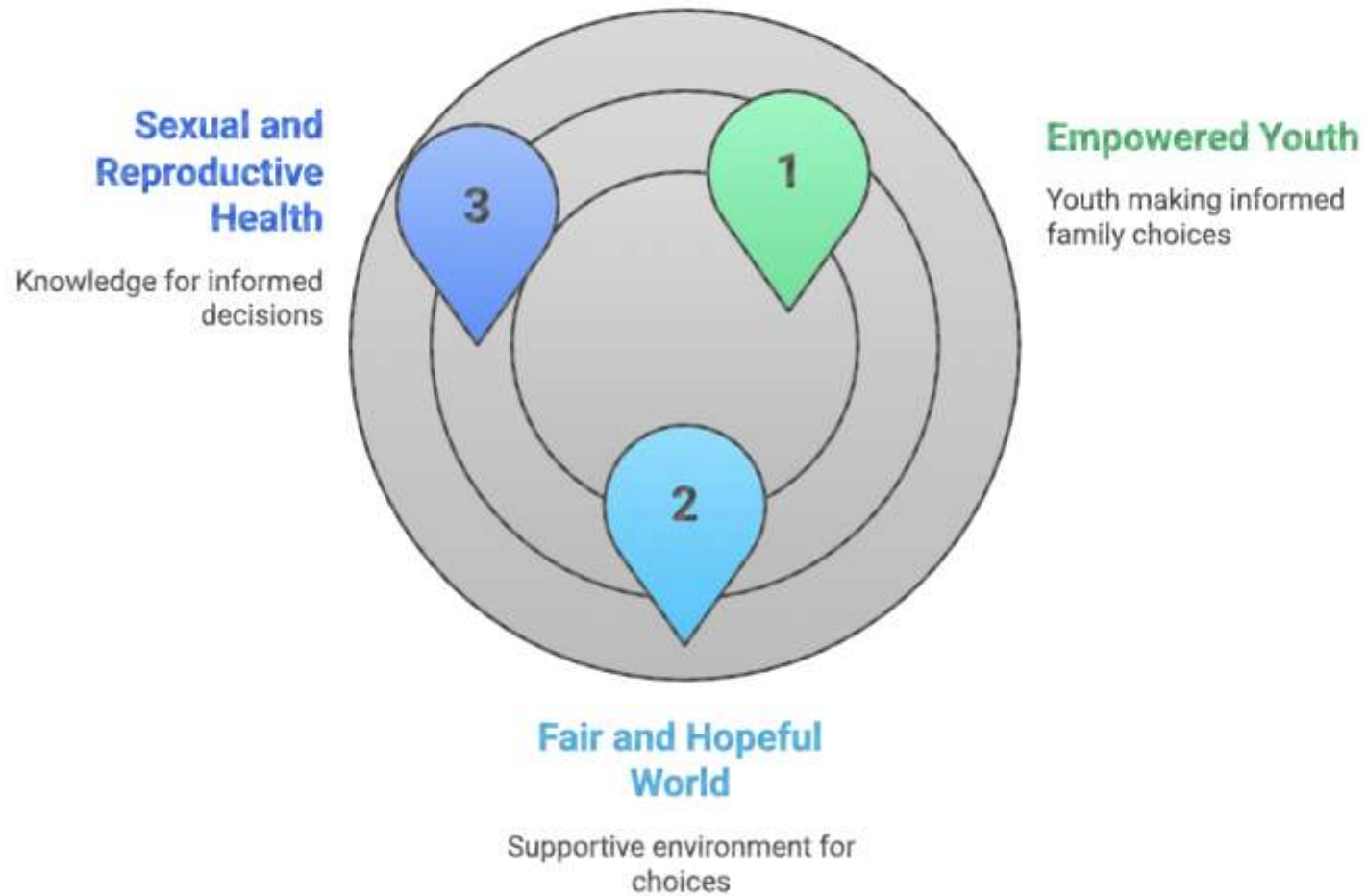
1989

Annual observance
of World Population
Day

11th July

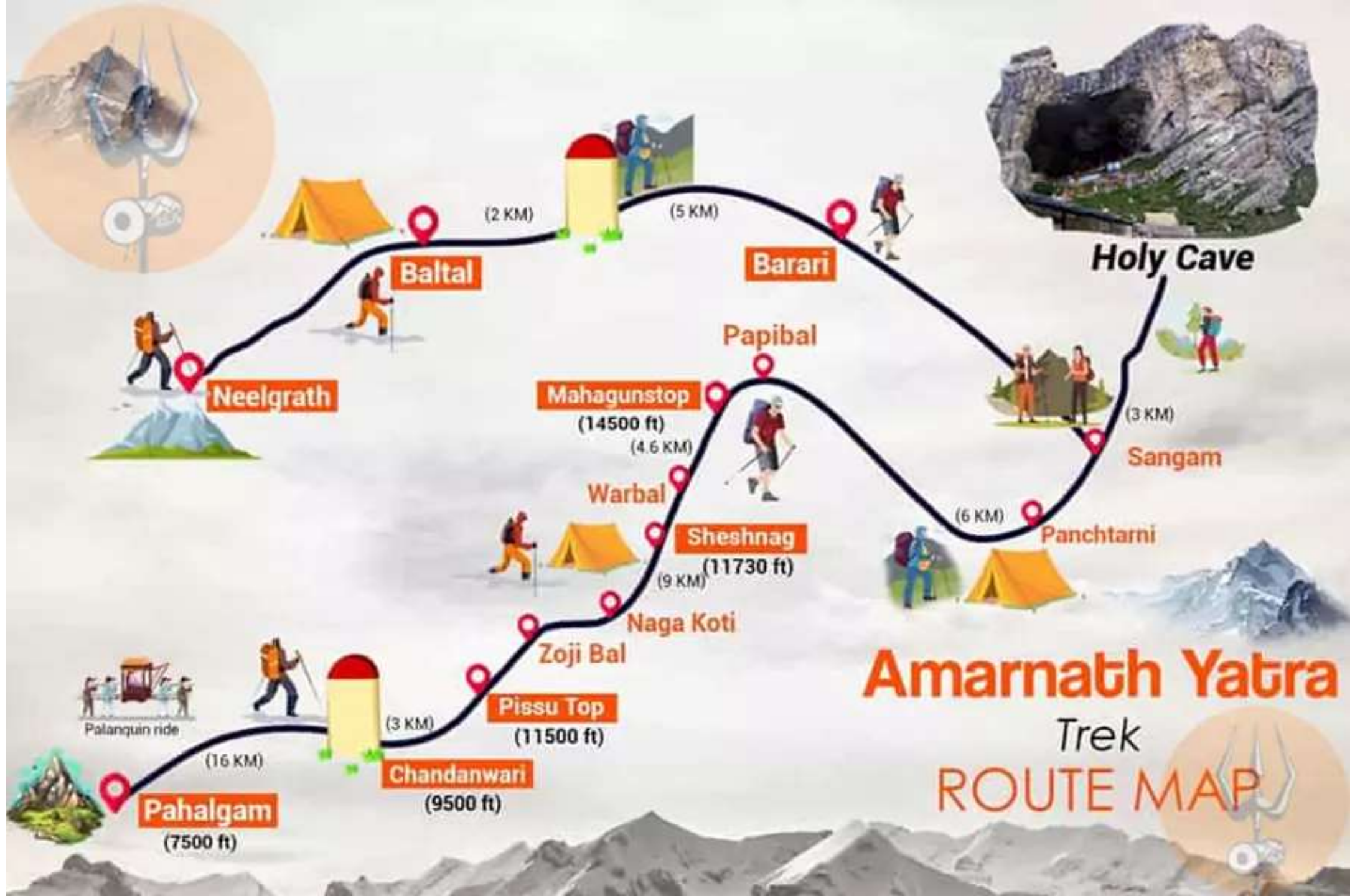


Empowering Youth for Family Choices



Indian Army Launches Operation SHIVA 2025 for Amarnath Yatra Security





Amarnath Yatra Route Map

Complete Guide for Devotees





UAE Golden Visa 2025: Everything You Need to Know

The background image is a collage of travel-related items. It includes a map with yellow and blue lines, a passport with various stamps (including 'UAE' and '2014-10-24'), Euro banknotes (5 and 20), and three Euro coins (1, 2, and 5). A pair of sunglasses is visible in the top right corner, and a smartphone is partially visible in the bottom left corner.

Understanding the UAE Golden Visa



Investors

Individuals investing in the UAE economy



Skilled Professionals

Professionals with specialized skills



Students

Individuals pursuing education in the UAE



Talented Individuals

Individuals with unique talents

UAE Golden Visa Benefits

Study Opportunities

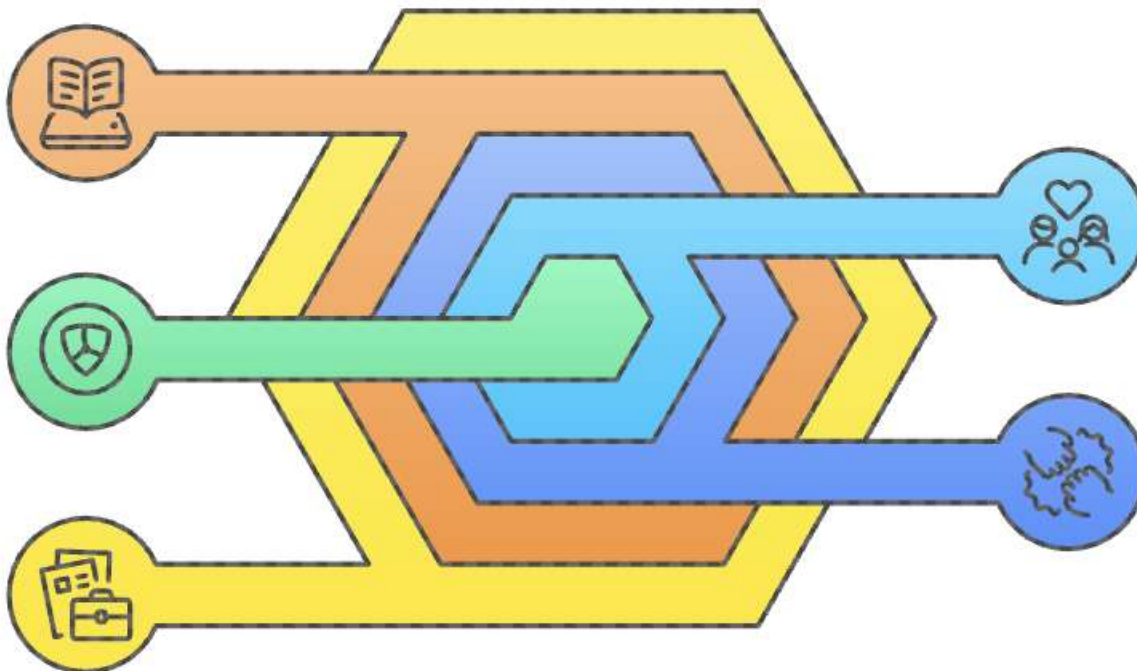
Enables educational pursuits in the UAE

Stability

Provides a stable way to settle in the UAE

Work Opportunities

Facilitates employment in the UAE



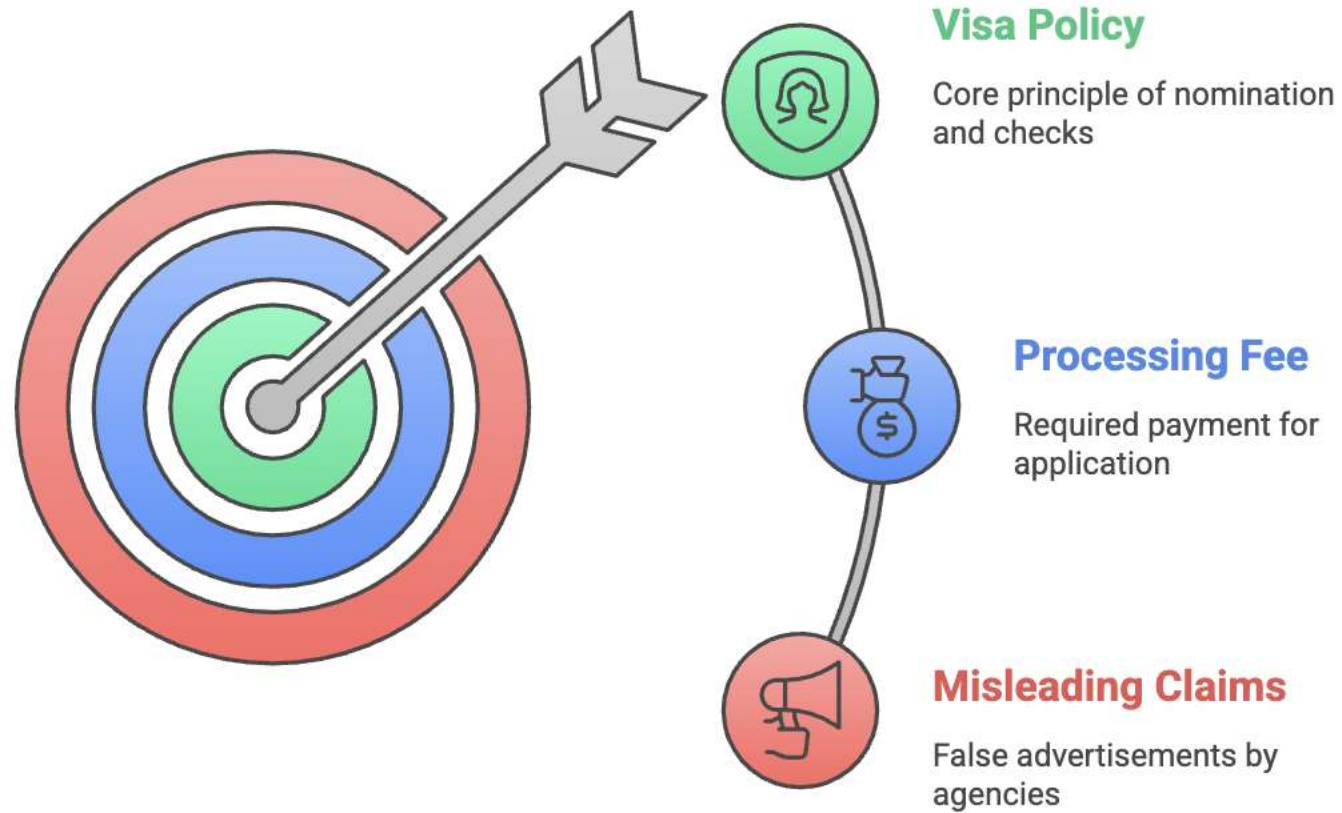
Family Inclusion

Allows family members to join

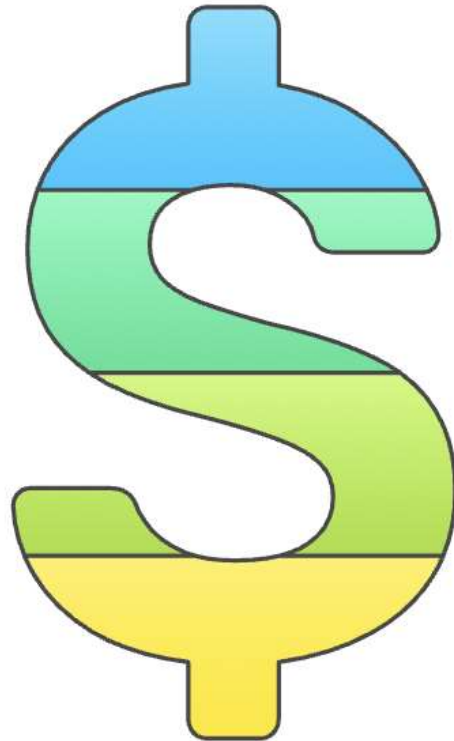
No Sponsor Needed

Eliminates the need for a local sponsor

UAE Golden Visa Process



Understanding UAE Golden Visa Policy



No Fixed Price

Golden Visas are not sold for a fixed price.



Processing Fee

AED 100,000 is a processing fee, not a guarantee.



Nomination and Checks

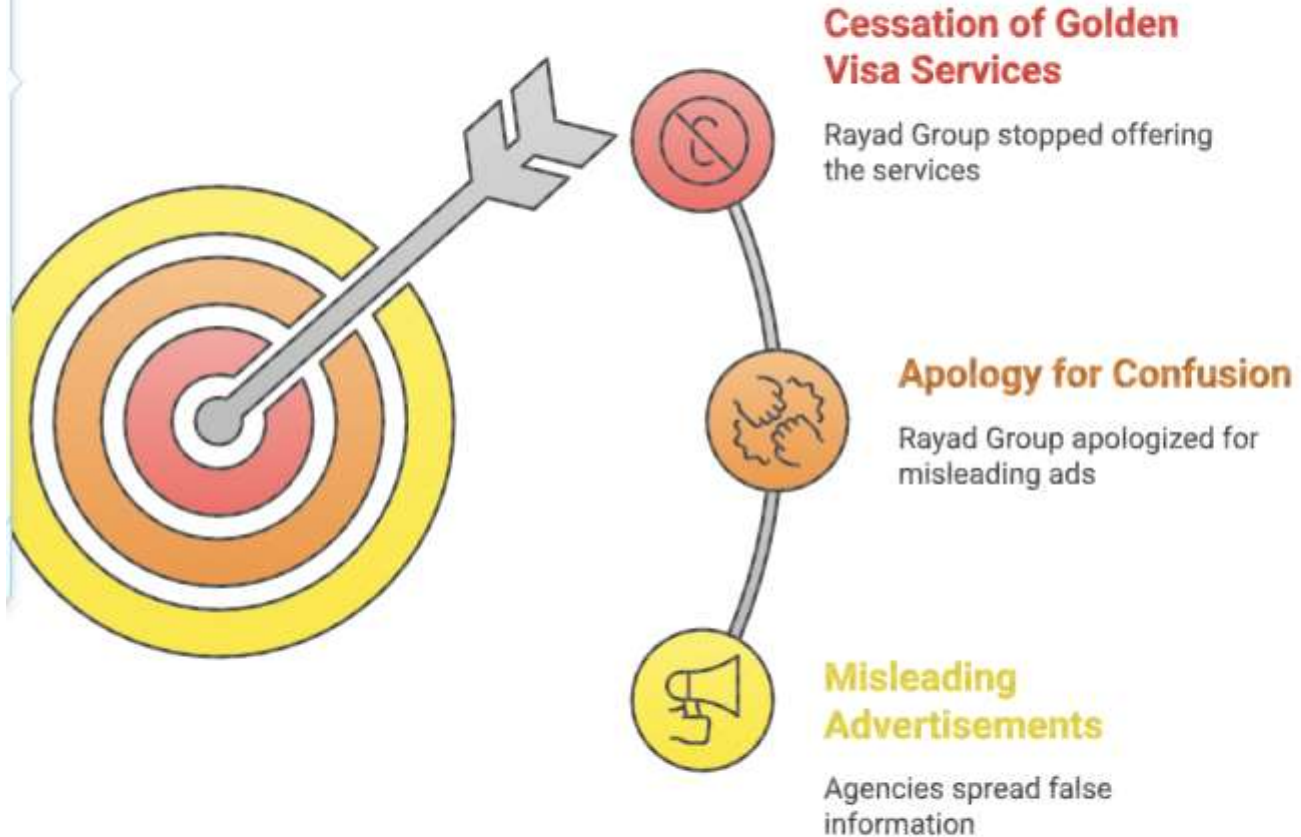
Applicants must be nominated and pass strict checks.



Misleading Advertisements

Many advertisements and claims by agencies are misleading.

Rayad Group's Response to Misleading Ads



India's Gender Gap: Challenges and the Way Forward

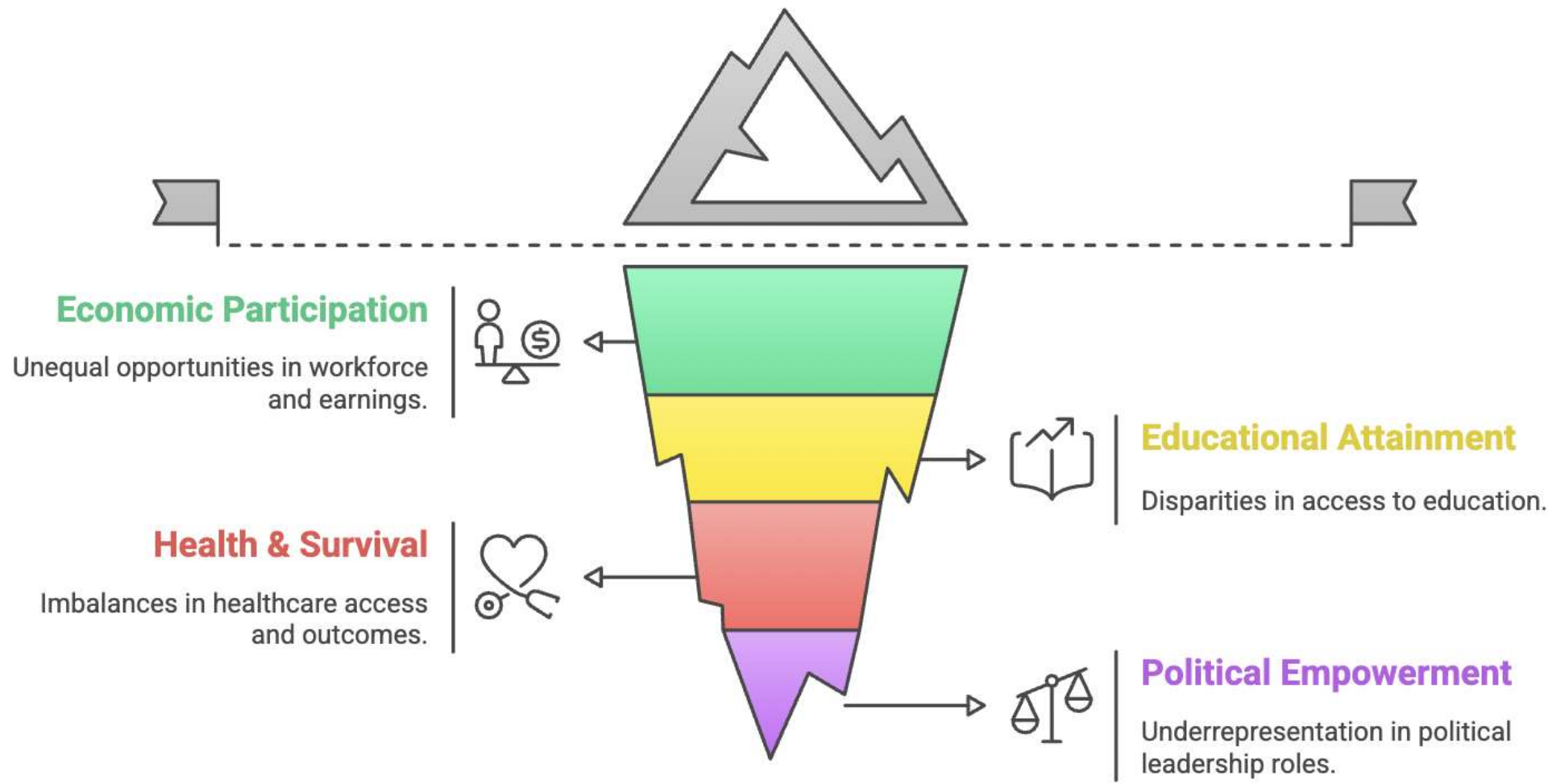


- India ranked 131 out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), reflecting widening disparities in economic participation and women's health.

Global Gender Gap: Unveiling the Depths of Inequality

Global Gender Gap

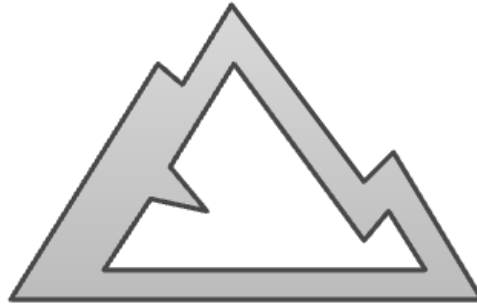
Overall percentage of gender parity.



India's Economic Gender Disparity.

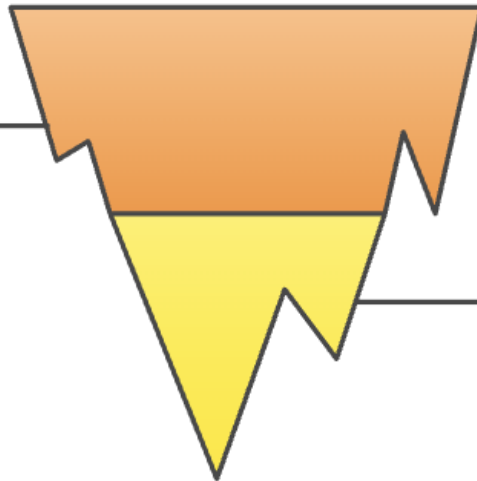
Low Female Earnings

Women earn less than men.



Limited Economic Participation

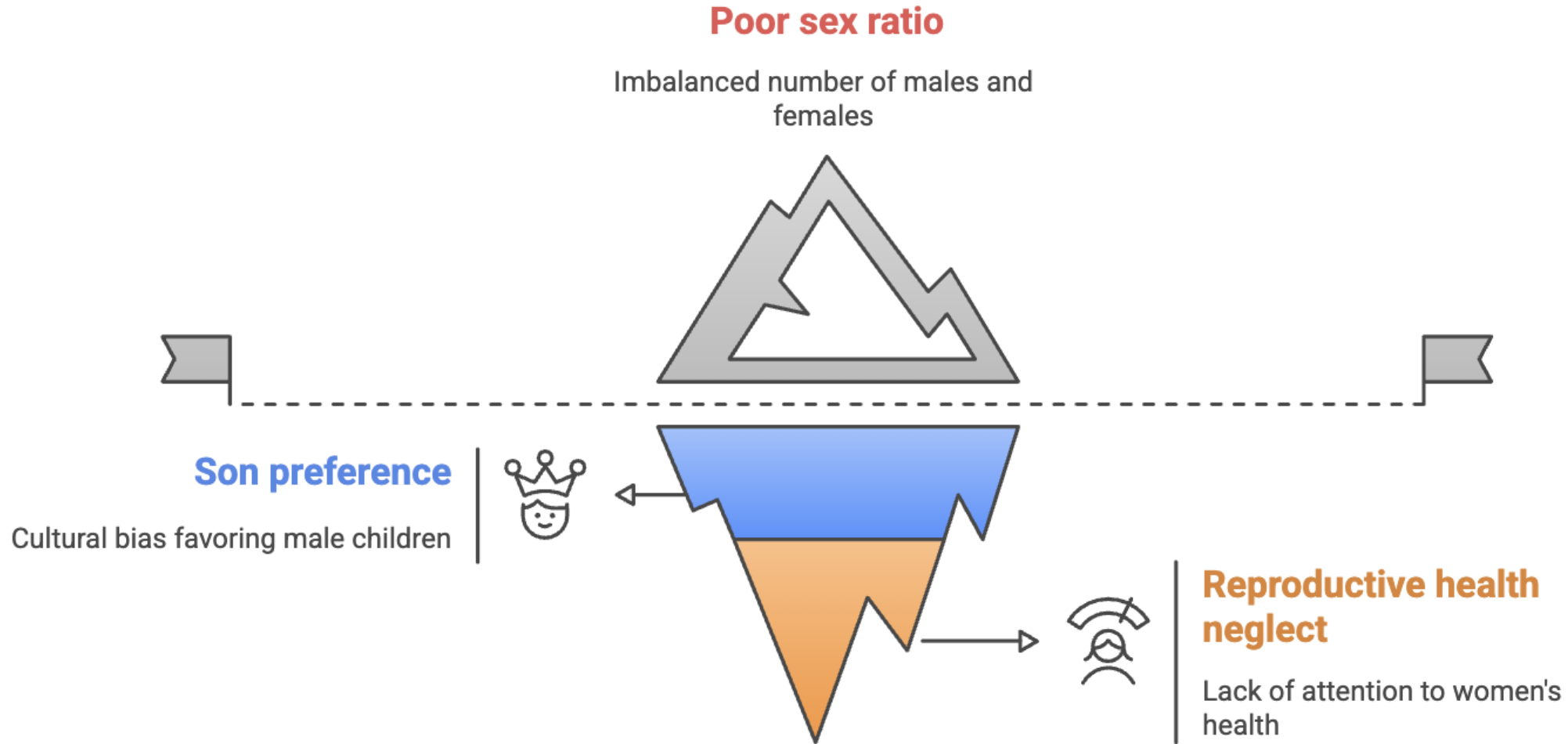
India ranks 143rd globally.



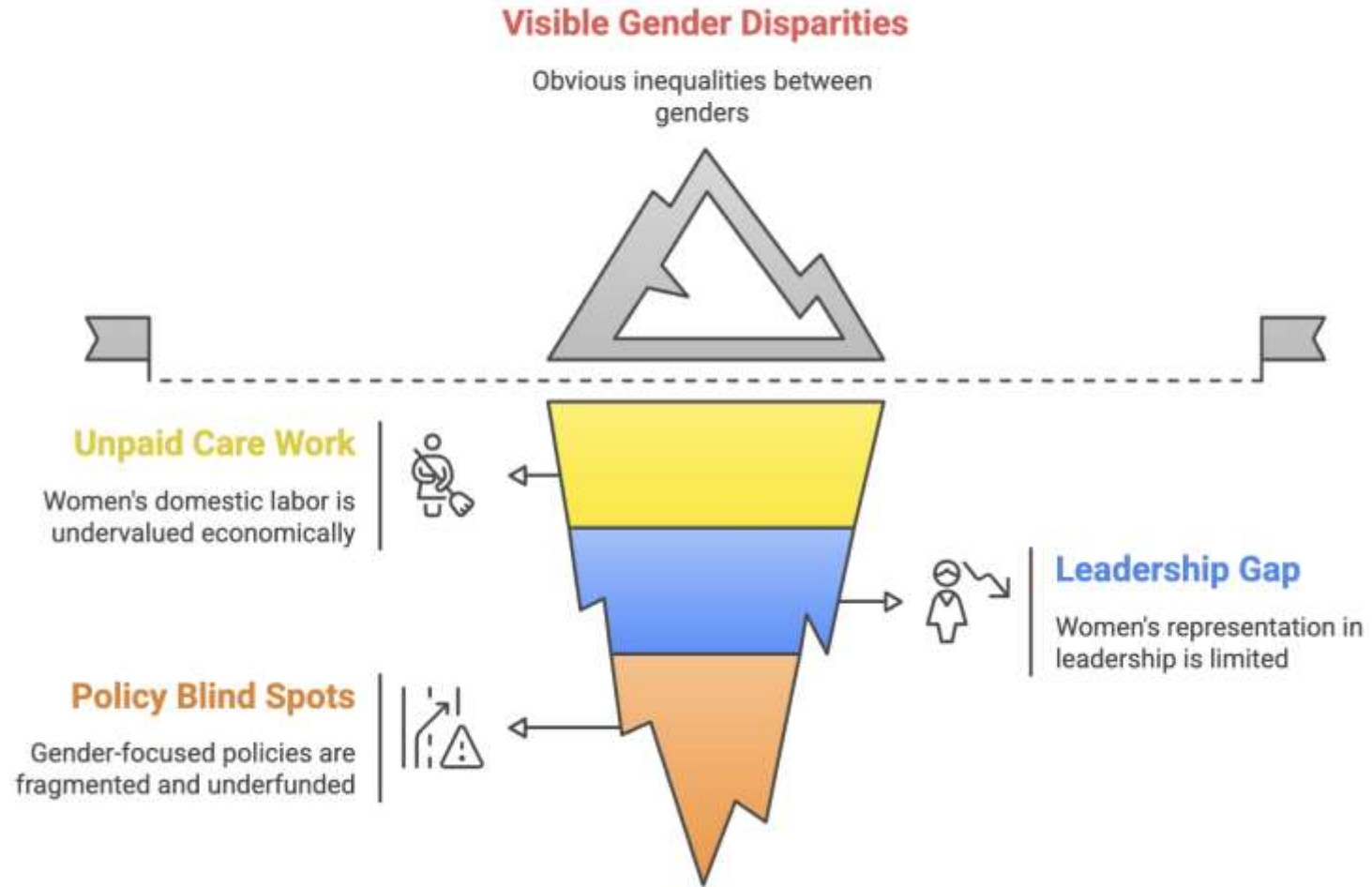
Low Female Labor Force

FLFP is under 25% in India.

Son preference and reproductive health neglect are societal challenges.



Gender Inequality: Unveiling the Hidden Depths



WHO Roadmap on AI in Traditional Medicine

What is GI-AI4H?



Global Initiative on AI for Health (GI-AI4H) is a WHO-led international platform to guide the safe, ethical, and effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare, including traditional medicine systems

Key Features of GI-AI4H:

Multi-Stakeholder Platform:

Includes governments, academic institutions, private sector, and civil society to shape global AI health norms.

Standard Setting Role:

Develops regulatory frameworks, ethical guidelines, and benchmarking tools for AI in health applications.

Inclusion of Traditional Medicine:

At India's request, GI-AI4H now includes an AI-in-Traditional-Medicine vertica to formalize AI's role in Ayurveda, Unani, etc.

Evidence & Transparency Focus:

Promotes validation of AI models through real-world data, explainability, and bias checks.

Global Collaboration:

Facilitates cross-country cooperation on AI tools, open datasets, and digital public goods for health.

Word of the day

Veritable:

often used as intensifier; not counterfeit or copied

Synonyms: authentic, bona fide, unquestionable, regular

Usage: *The meal was a veritable feast.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/veritablepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈvɛ.ɹɪ.tə.bəl/



STILL CONFUSED! HOW TO PREPARE

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with expert guidance in our **Online Wo**

For English Medium Candidates Only



RAS Mains



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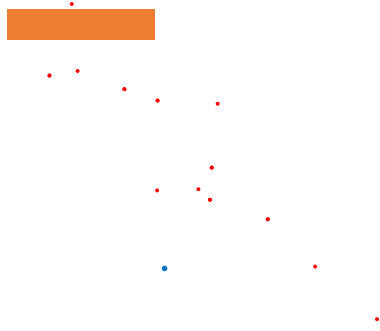


info.rasonly@gmail.com



We are the team of passionate officer educators and Technocra

We Want to make your RAS jour



Thank you
guys.

